

THE TIMES

Monday

Senior...
Michael Binyon, in Bonn, presents a portrait of Willy Brandt, West Germany's elder statesman, who is 70 today.

Citizens
Russell Davies provides the lowdown on life in Cambridge.

Ghosts...

Robert Fisk reports on the grim facts of life in Beirut, where death is a constant companion.

Of Christmas...
The Monday Page comes face to face with the festive season.



Yet to come
Macao: what does the future hold for the Portuguese colony as neighbouring Hongkong prepares for 1997?

Judge 'has sympathy' in sex case

Judge Brian Gibbons, QC, said at the Central Criminal Court that he had considerable sympathy for a man who had sexual intercourse with a girl aged seven. "It strikes me as being one of the kind of accidents that could almost happen to anyone," he said. Page 3

Korchnoi mugged

Viktor Korchnoi, the exiled Russian chess grandmaster, was mugged on Tower Bridge on Thursday night, it was revealed last night. Mr Korchnoi, aged 52, is in London for the world chess championship semi-final.

Rothschild deal

Rothschild Group, the holding company of NM Rothschild, the merchant bankers, has agreed to buy the maximum permitted stake in Smith Brothers, the London stockbrokers. Page 19

Peugeot crisis

The French Prime Minister is stepping in to defuse the crisis in the French car industry after the decision of the Peugeot factory to shut down its strike-hit Poissy plant. Page 6

Budget test

The Council of Ministers is to test the legality of the controversial EEC budget. The Council believes at least four points in it could be challenged before the European Court. Page 30

Drink warning

Magistrates in Essex have threatened to impose prison sentences on motorists convicted of drink-driving offences. Essex takes lead page 4

Money savers

With only six shopping days left to Christmas, *Family Money* has been investigating ways of saving in shopping in France. Page 21

India revolution

India is planning to revolutionize the appearance of its locally built cars which at present look as though they belong to the 1950s. Page 6

Neill dismissed

Arsenal have dismissed Terry Neill, their manager for seven years, after a run of poor results, including a home defeat in the Milk Cup by Walsall. Page 25

Leader page 9
Letters: On the Commonwealth, from Professor Mike Faber; public relations and Government, from Mr J. Andrew, and Mr D. Smith; rail archives, from Dr P. W. Lewis. Leading articles: Local authorities: *The Guardian* secret document; Charities Features, page 8

Julian Haviland on Mrs Thatcher's backroom battles: Why preserve Thirties architecture asks Sir John Summerson; Bernard Levin tires of suffering in the name of modern art; Roy Strong on table manners. Obituary, page 10. Mr David Markham, Professor Lionel Mirsky

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Two shot dead as store chief is rescued from IRA

From Richard Ford, Ballinamore, co Leitrim

A soldier and a policeman, members of the Irish Republic's security forces, were shot dead yesterday in fierce gun battles as Mr Don Tidey, the kidnapped executive, was successfully freed.

The policeman was later named as Mr Peter Sheenan, aged 23 a recruit from the police training depot at Templemore, co Tipperary.

Mr Tidey, aged 49, was unharmed after his 22-day ordeal at the hands of the Provisional IRA, who had demanded £5m from the Associated British Foods company for his release.

Last night, looking tired and with a grey beard, he made emotional telephone calls to his family at their home in Rathfarnham, co Dublin, and to his business colleagues.

A detective, Mr Donald Kelleher, was shot in the leg when he threw himself in front of Mr Tidey as his captors turned their guns on him. A second soldier was injured, along with two members of the kidnap gang, during three separate gun battles in isolated woodland near the village of Ballinamore, co Leitrim.

Inspector Patrick Malachy said: "Mr Tidey is in good health. He is jumping for joy at his release, he is very excited

and overjoyed at being free again."

Mr Garry Weston, chairman of Associated British Foods, said: "We are supremely delighted on behalf of his family and all of his colleagues."

Chief Supt James McNally said: "It was an excellent day's work, saddened by the deaths of two very brave young men. Mr Tidey was unharmed and I have just been speaking to his daughter, who is delighted at her father's release."

Last night, a massive security operation was taking place on both sides of the border, with police and army checkpoints stopping all vehicles and searching them every few miles, as reports continued to come in that sporadic gunfights had been heard in the woods.

This had been rejected by Associated British Foods, who had taken into account the policy of the British and Irish governments that no cash be paid for kidnap victims.

Mr Tidey was abducted as he drove his daughter to school only a few months after the Provisional IRA had been foiled in an attempt to kidnap Mr Weston, from his home in co Wicklow.

"Today's fall in inflation to 4.8 per cent rounds off a year of good news on the economy which has seen us climb out of recession and achieve one of the fastest growth rates in Europe.

"It means that for 1983 prices will have risen more slowly than at any time since 1969," Mr King said.

The latest figures confirm inflationary pressures remain weak. Last month alone prices rose 0.4 per cent largely due to higher telephone charges and fresh-food prices although this was partly offset by price cuts for wine and second-hand cars.

However, the year-on-year inflation rate is still expected to edge up ahead because of the favourable trend in the same period last year.

Prices fell last December, helped by a 2 per cent cut in the mortgage rate, so even if prices showed no increase at all this month, the 12-month rate will still rise.

Officials expect inflation by the end of the year to be running a little above five per cent and comfortably in line with the Government's predictions.

However, international comparisons show that Britain is roughly in line with the average in other industrialized countries of 5.2 per cent and some important competitors are doing much better. Inflation in the United States is 2.9 per cent and only 2.6 per cent in West Germany.

The importance of keeping inflation down if Britain is to compete in world markets is hammered home by both Mr King and by Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industries.

Sir Terence said: "This augurs well for attaining the Chancellor's forecast of 4.5 per cent by the end of next year. But we must not relax our efforts to keep pay settlements low as part of the effort to improve competitiveness."

Colonel Simon Kassis, the

head of Lebanon's military intelligence, has been in Damascus for discussions with his Syrian opposite number and the highly charged rhetoric that used to be exchanged between Syria and Lebanon has now disappeared.

The Lebanese had "frozen" their relations with Libya on November 23 because they complained that Colonel Gaddafi's radio and newspapers were making "verbal attacks" on Lebanon. Yesterday all this was forgotten. Indeed it was the Libyan news agency which first announced Mr Gemayel's arrival.

The truce had been agreed at a long meeting in Damascus between leaders of at least three of the militia groups which have been fighting around the airport and in the mountains east of Beirut.

The Syrian orientation of the ceasefire and the Lebanese leader's almost unprecedented visit to Libya — at Colonel Gaddafi's own request — suggests that the Lebanese Government is now anxious to see just how far Syria and its allies are prepared to go in supporting the Gemayel regime. They may well be doing so with the encouragement of the Americans, whose military confrontation with Syria has been in danger of getting out of control.

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Art treasure talks collapse

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

left with after tax. Numerous

different formulas for calculating

this figure have apparently

been explored without result.

The final move seems to have

been the biggest tax-free offer

the museum could stretch to

after taking a very deep breath.

While the theoretical market

value of the drawings is of

much academic interest, the

real argument as far as the Duke

and the museum are concerned

rests with the sum he would be

advised by Christie's the art auctioneers, and the British Museum by Agnew's the Bond St firm of Old Master dealers.

Dr David Wilson, Director of the British Museum, said yesterday that Agnew's and Mr John Rowlands, Keeper of Prints and Drawings, had come up with independent valuations on the drawings which had been very close, but a very long way from Christie's figure.

He said that the difference had nothing to do with "the Getty factor" — the enormous purchasing power of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu — though he agreed that the museum had recently paid a very high price for a drawing.

Nevertheless, in making their valuation on behalf of the Duke, Christie's must have taken full account of the purchasing power of other potentially interested parties.

The difference over valuation

is also due to a disagreement

between top art market experts.

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Freedom day: Carol Compton being escorted from court while the judges deliberate.

Brittan hits out at closed shop

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, warned the unions last night that the closed shop could be in jeopardy if they failed to learn the important lessons of the National Graphical Association (NGA) dispute at Warrington.

In a speech on the subject of "Ending the Closed Shop", Mr Brittan told a meeting of businessmen in Northallerton, North Yorkshire: "The closed shop is itself, however enforced, a flagrant and fundamental denial of individual liberties.

"Our employment legislation has rightly been aimed at curbing the worst abuses which the closed shop brings with it. But while trade unionists go on believing that it can be right for them to insist on their fellow workers joining a union whether they want to or not, this issue will continue to poison industrial relations.

"Moreover, no one should have any doubt that, however temporarily comfortable it may be, even for some employers, the suppression of individual workers' rights which closed shop agreements involve is not only morally wrong but deeply damaging to the economy and jobs."

He also said that the closed shop, as with every rigid monopoly attempting to secure immunity from market forces, contained the seeds of its own destruction; the respite was only temporary. Mr Brittan added: "Change there has to be, unless whole industries are to die."

The fact that the Home Secretary should speak in such tough and unrelenting language gives an indication of the Government's concern on an issue which did not feature in last June's manifesto.

But Whitehall sources did point out last night that Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment, had it in his power to bring forward the closed shop ballot deadline contained in the Employment Act, 1982.

Unions have until November next year to win 80 per cent support for closed shop agreements. If they fail employees have rights to non-membership. But Mr Norman Tebbit announced last year: "If there is evidence that the closed shop is still being operated intolerably and inflexibly, I shall not hesitate to bring forward the date of implementation."

Ministers are thought to have reviewed that deadline in October, but there would be nothing to stop Mr King advancing the ballot date if the Prime Minister and the Cabinet felt that NGA intolerance and inflexibility demanded a stronger response than a threat from Mr Brittan.

Training scheme for Services fails to attract young entrants

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The armed Forces Youth training scheme launched in August has so far been a flop with only about 600 people being accepted to fill the 1,900 places which were being offered this autumn.

According to latest statistics from the Ministry of Defence, 281 people have joined the scheme and a further 331 have been accepted but have not yet started training.

Under the scheme, young people aged 16 and 17 are offered a year in the Armed Forces during which they do basic training and have the opportunity of training in specific trades. They wear uniform and are subject to service discipline, but are entitled to leave the service at any time after giving 14 days' notice.

There appear to have been two main obstacles to the services' endeavours to fill the 1,900 places. One is that the trainees receive only £25 a week, from which £10 is deducted to cover the cost of food and accommodation.

It had originally been planned that when the scheme was in full operation, probably by about the middle of next year, 5,200 places would be offered. It now seems highly unlikely that this will be achieved unless the scheme is modified.

The other obstacle has been in the selection of recruits the same standards have been adopted as for the recruitment of normal entrants to the forces. This is reflected in the fact that of 3,000 young people who have shown serious interest in the scheme only 612 have been accepted.

In a written answer in the Commons on Thursday Mr John Lee, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, acknowledged that the take-up of places had been "disappointing".

He said: "I am, therefore, taking steps to stimulate among those responsible for administering the scheme within the Ministry of Defence a greater awareness and commitment to its success."

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The earliest date for the introduction of a new salary structure would be 1985. Meanwhile, the National Union of Teachers, the biggest union with 250,000 members, is strongly opposed to accelerated promotion for the good teacher.

The National Association of Schoolteachers/Union of Women Teachers/NAS/UWT is better disposed towards the idea. The present stumbling block to agreement on the main professional grade is the question of how to assess teachers for it.

The NAS/UWT is in favour of "positive" assessment. Teachers would have to match certain criteria and that would be done by a panel of teachers and advisers. The NUT wants "negative" assessment, which means that all would pass through to the main grade automatically unless the local authority could prove them incompetent.

Mr Joanna Davies, mother of NUJ chapel (chairman of the office branch) at the Dimbleby of the newspaper group, said last night that the 12 journalists taking what the High Court had decided was "secondary action" were confident that Mr Dimbleby would not seek a fresh injunction.

He is a reasonable man and he is aware of his public image. I do not think he would conduct a personal vendetta against us, it is not that vindictive.

The NUJ members started the action because Mr Dimbleby had transferred the printing of his papers from his own office to the non-union TBF Printers in Nottingham, associated with T. Bailey Forman, with whom the NUJ had a five-year dispute.

The High Court and subsequently the Court of Appeal ruled that the two companies were separate legal entities and that the action being taken by the journalists was "secondary" and therefore illegal.

The union is arguing that the courts have misinterpreted the labour laws and that the ruling of its bishops was a rather unhappy one and his Queen's Bishop in particular was a useless piece.

However, Smyslov seemed well content with the draw. He offered an exchange of queens

in their resistance to a job description because of the employers' desire to incorporate such items as voluntary lunchtime duties. The NAS/UWT says it is prepared to contemplate a separate contract for lunchtime supervision for those who wanted to do the duties.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, of the NAS/UWT, said his union was all in favour of reforming the salary structure. "The present system is so amateur, corrupt and confidential that any attempt to systematize it can only lead to improvements," he said.

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Sex with children could happen to anyone accidentally, judge says

There were gasps of astonishment from a public gallery in the Central Criminal Court yesterday as a senior judge defended a man who had had sexual intercourse with a friend's seven-year-old daughter.

"It strikes me as being one of the kind of accidents that could almost happen to anyone," Judge Gibbons said.

The judge, aged 71, who has two sons and a daughter, added: "This is, of course, a serious offence against a little child. I hope the public will not misunderstand me when I say what I do."

He said that he had considerable sympathy with William Watson-Sweeney, aged 38, a builder, said to have a serious drink problem.

"For some moments people like this lose their natural restraint," Judge Gibbons said.

Watson-Sweeney, of Vernon Road, Guildford, Surrey, admitted having unlawful sexual intercourse with the girl. His not guilty plea to raping her was accepted.

He was further remanded in custody until Monday. "I want to see if there is some other punishment available rather



Judge Gibbons: "Restraints can be lost."

than prison". Judge Gibbons said.

Mr Philip Singer, for the prosecution, said that Watson-Sweeney met the child and her mother while shopping.

He had been drinking heavily and asked the girl whether she would help him with some household chores. When he got her to his bedroom he removed her clothes and had intercourse.

He gave her some sherry and took her home. The distressed

girl told her mother, who informed the police.

Watson-Sweeney at first told detectives: "You've got to be joking". But within minutes he broke down and confessed: "I must have been drinking too much."

"My God, I feel terrible about this. I wasn't legless, but I wasn't sober. She said she knew what mummies and daddies did in bedrooms."

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, for the defence, said that his client was "full of remorse and shame". The offence was an isolated one and the memory of it would remain with Watson-Sweeney and his family "for the rest of their lives". He realizes that he deserves everything he gets.

Mrs Brenda Bridge, the wife of the Dean of Guildford, the Very Rev Antony Bridge, was in court. She had been friendly with Watson-Sweeney and his wife, who have a younger son, and described them as a lovely family.

Judge Gibbons received considerable publicity two months ago after he criticized a jury for acquitting a young burglar. Three years earlier he condemned workers at Heathrow for their dishonesty.

Thatcher bomb 'cry for help'

A north London schoolboy aged 14 was "making a cry for help" when he posted a bomb to Mrs Margaret Thatcher on St Patrick's day, a detective said yesterday.

Det Insp Brendan Gibbons, of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch told the Central Criminal court that he had made extensive investigations into the case but could find "absolutely no evidence whatsoever" that the boy had any political motive.

On the second day of his trial the boy changed his plea to guilty to sending an explosive device through the post. The charges alleging that he intended to injure the Prime Minister or any other person were left on the court file. Sentence was adjourned for a month for reports and the boy was granted bail.

£80,000 crash award for boy

Stephen Elliott, aged 16, was awarded £80,000 agreed damages in the High Court in London yesterday after being injured in an accident involving his father's lorry, in which he was a passenger.

He had a leg amputated after the accident, at East Bergholt, Essex, in December 1979, and suffered multiple fractures and lacerations which left him scarred for life.

PC jailed

Nigel Edwards, aged 26, of Llys-y-wern, Sychdyn, near Mold a police constable, was sentenced to three months' jail when he appeared before Chester Crown Court yesterday charged with causing the death of a colleague, PC Ian Grant, by reckless driving in June. Edwards has since left police service.

Mr Stringfellow claims that the association of his night club with such a product as chips could damage his business.

People thought he had gone into the frozen food business and was making a great deal of money from lending his name.

The judge said that this belief could have been brought about by the television advertisement shown in London and the South-east, which emphasized the name Stringfellow "by a background of music and dancing in a suburban kitchen fitted with disco lights".

The company agreed not to proceed with its advertising campaign.

Mr Stringfellow opened his club in 1980 at a cost of £1m.

Kidnap gang leader jailed for 18 years

George Panae, aged 30, the gang leader who masterminded the kidnap of Mr Emmanuel Xuereb and his wife Maria, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for 18 years.

Anastasi Panae, aged 36, his brother, was sentenced to 10 years and Donald Gray, aged 27, their accomplice, to eight years.

The couple were kidnapped and held captive for a £2m ransom for five days.

Sir James Miskin, QC, the Recorder, told George Panae: "I am quite satisfied that you were the architect of these dreadful matters. You masterminded the terror struck into Maria and Emmanuel when they were first overpowered, held at knife-point, and then bound gagged and blindfolded.

"It was you who took the gamble and organized their terrifying ordeal, you who frightened the husband into speaking on the phone to his father, and you who made those terrifying demands for a £2m ransom and accompanied those demands with disgusting threats."

But Panae, a "wicked and devious man", had reckoned

without the courage of Mrs Xuereb, aged 25, who was a "brave and highly intelligent young woman".

Sir James said that cases of kidnap and blackmail were on the increase and there had to be sentences with a "deterrent effect".

George Panae, a driving instructor, of Telford Avenue, Streatham, south London, Anastasi Panae, a fish shop proprietor, of Dunston Road, Battersea, south London, both pleaded guilty not guilty. Gray, an unemployed former boxer, of Raleigh Road, Brixton, south London, pleaded guilty to his role in the crimes and gave evidence for the Crown.

After the trial, Mr and Mrs Xuereb said that they wanted to forget the experience. Mr Xuereb revealed that his wife was expecting her first baby in the spring. But they had feared for their unborn baby's life because of her ordeal in the witness box.

He advised any other victims of a kidnap attempt not to obey blackmail demands but to report immediately to the police.

Stringfellow's night club wins court chip fight

The owner of Stringfellow's night club in London yesterday won his High Court battle to prevent a frozen-food producer selling chips under his name.

McCains can no longer use the brand name Stringfellow's on their new long thin oven-ready chips, Mr Justice Whiford ruled.

But he suspended his order for 12 weeks to give time for "hundreds of tons" of bagged chips to be sold and an appeal to be considered.

Stringfellow's club and restaurant in St Martin's Lane was described by the judge as one of the top three in London. During the week-long hearing it was said to be frequented by "beautiful people" and showbusiness personalities.

Mr Peter Stringfellow, from Marylebone, north London, and his company, Stringfellow Enterprises, brought the action against McCains Foods (GB) of Scarborough, and their advertising agents Reeves Robertsaw Needham of Kensington, west London. The judge dismissed the claims against the advertising agents, ordered an inquiry into damages and awarded Mr Stringfellow his costs.

Afterwards Mr Stringfellow said that he would celebrate with a "champagne, caviar, but no chips" party.

Predator beetles imported to protect trees

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Three hundred Belgian beetles of the species *Rhizophagus grandis* have been imported by the Forestry Commission and established in a special breeding unit in Mortimer Forest, near Ludlow, Shropshire, eventually to attack the Great Spruce Bark Beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*).

Unlike *R. granis*, *D. micans* prefers the bark of conifer trees, especially Sitka spruce, ultimately killing them. Since an infestation was discovered by the commission in August last year, numbers have spread.

There are now restrictions on the movement of timber in the Welsh border counties and in Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire, and a part of Staffordshire.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, told the Commons on Wednesday that 677 infestations had so far been discovered. A commission official said yesterday it was hoped to release about six thousand predators.

Coroner halts heart transplant

By David Cross

A dispute over a Staffordshire coroner's decision to stop the heart of a maintenance fitter being used in a heart transplant operation could not have come at a worse time. The Department of Health and Social Security is preparing to launch a publicity campaign next month to encourage more people to make arrangements for their organs to be used when they die.

Although surveys show that many people were in favour of bequeathing organs, only about 15 per cent carried donor cards.

Mr Graham Alcock, aged 28, a fitter at an excavator factory in Rotherham, had carried a donor card with him. Before he died last Tuesday, he told relatives that he wanted his heart and kidneys to be used for transplants.

As a result of that request doctors at the Royal Infirmary in North Staffordshire kept him alive until suitable recipients could be found for his heart and kidneys. Tests were carried out on his organs to match those of patients waiting for a transplant. Many people with

organ donor cards could be dismayed that their wishes were not carried out," she said. "This has lost them hundreds of donor cards".

Mr Ray Alcock, the dead man's father, called for an inquiry into the coroner's decision. "It seems pointless to carry a donor card if the parents cannot carry out the wishes of their son", he said.

A spokesman for the Department of Health and Social Security in London said yesterday that she hoped that Mr Alcock's case would in no way deter people from offering their organs for transplants. The department was launching a poster, leaflet and television commercial campaign at the end of next month to relaunch the donor card system, she said.

A spokesman for Harefield Hospital said that he was disappointed that the transplant had not gone ahead as planned. But hospitals had to pay attention to what a coroner decided. "We cannot argue about it," he said.



Plucking time for turkeys at Marlow, Buckinghamshire (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Plea to free husband of dead solicitor

By A Staff Reporter

The husband of the murdered solicitor Mrs Janice Weston was still being questioned by the police last night after the failure of a High Court attempt to free him from custody.

The court was told that Mr Anthony Weston, a property developer, would either be charged with the murder of his wife, who was 37, or be freed by 2 pm today.

Lord Justice Mann, sitting with Mr Justice Mann said that the application for a writ of habeas corpus had not been made out.

Mr Weston, aged 39, has been held at Huntingdon police station, Cambridgeshire, a few miles from the A1 lay-by where his wife's battered body was found in September, since shortly after noon on Thursday.

Mr Dermot Wright, counsel for Mr Weston, said that he should either be charged or released immediately. "He is now refusing to answer any more questions and will not say any more", he told the Queen's Bench Divisional Court.

"What we say is that the police are holding Mr Weston, knowing that he is at a low emotional ebb, since he has suffered for some months since the dramatic and brutal murder of his wife, holding him at a time when obviously he is very depressed and emotional so that they may, by holding him in the police station - for most of the time in a cell - gain some kind of confession or admission to the murder from him. We say that is wrong."

Mr Timothy Barnes, for the police, said he repudiated any suggestion that they were trying to force a confession out of him and rejected a suggestion that they were "scrapping the barrel".

Unlike Welsh farmers, who expressed fears recently that the glut of frozen birds would undermine their businesses, the spokesman said that a transfer could only be made where both countries and the prisoner all agreed. The problem of someone being brought home for an unknown offence would not arise with the current signatories of the convention.

The bill also allows for arrangements to be drawn up with countries outside the convention - negotiations with Thailand are in progress. But those in the Middle East, not those in the Middle East. The Bill's powers are wide enough for a prisoner to be returned from the Middle East to serve a sentence for possessing alcohol.

The National Council for the

Cot death clue discovered

By Clive Cookson

Researchers at Birmingham University may have discovered a cause for unexplained "cot deaths".

Preliminary evidence from Dr Stanley Salmon and Mr Denis Gale of the university's department of anatomy indicate that the main muscle protein, Myocin, has not matured properly in the diaphragms of babies that mysteriously stop breathing in their cots.

The researchers are using antibodies supplied by the Institut Pasteur in Paris, to analyse the protein in post mortem samples. The antibodies distinguish the immature form of myocin, with which the baby is born, from the adult form that should develop during the first months of life.

According to the Birmingham hypothesis, the diaphragm, whose muscles control breathing, becomes susceptible to fatigue if the myocin does not mature fast enough. These additional stressors, such as a cold, could make the diaphragm fail suddenly.

The Foundation for the

Study of Infant Death, based in London, has given Dr Salmon and Mr Gale a £21,500 grant to carry their research further over the next two years. Mr Gale emphasized that the project was intended only to identify an important molecular cause of cot deaths.

If myocin immaturity is indeed implicated, then more clinical work would be required to develop the discovery into a practical means of identifying babies at risk, who could be monitored closely.

He had a leg amputated after the accident, at East Bergholt, Essex, in December 1979, and suffered multiple fractures and lacerations which left him scarred for life.

£80,000 crash award for boy

Stephen Elliott, aged 16, was awarded £80,000 agreed damages in the High Court in London yesterday after being injured in an accident involving his father's lorry, in which he was a passenger.

He advised any other victims of a kidnap attempt not to obey blackmail demands but to report immediately to the police.

Loophole in prison repatriation Bill

By Stewart Teandler, Crime Reporter

Planned government legislation for the repatriation of Britons imprisoned abroad said that it was worried about the gap in the bill which needed clarification.

In general it supported legislation, but would brief members of the Lords. The Home Office said that it was preferable to be imprisoned in Britain rather than in worse conditions abroad.

The spokesman said that a transfer could only be made where both countries and the prisoner all agreed.

The convention, due to be ratified by 14 countries, including Canada and the United States, says that prisoners can be sent home to serve their punishment only where their offence is recognized in both countries.

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The Bill does not lay down that the offence must be mutual, going wider by not being specific. So, a prisoner could be returned from the Middle East to serve a sentence for possessing alcohol.

The National Council for the

Prices held by fresh turkeys

By Stewart Teandler, Crime Reporter

About nine thousand turkeys will have been killed and sent to butchers' shops this week from the farm of Mr Tom Copas, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire (our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

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The National Council for the

Army team to test life at 40° below zero

By Rodney Cowton

A party of British servicemen are to spend a year living in tents and snowholes on a remote Antarctic island which is thought only to have been visited four times.

The party will leave Britain

for Brabant Island, more than 600 miles south of Tierra del Fuego later this month.

Magistrates studying jail sentences for drink drivers after Essex lead

By Kenneth Gelling

Magistrates throughout the country will have in mind the possibility of imposing deterrent sentences when dealing with drink driving cases after this week's sentences on nine drivers at Grays, Essex.

The Bench at Grays sent one man, who had a drink-driving conviction, to prison for six months during hearings on Thursday. Of the others, all first offenders, four were ordered to be detained in police cells for four days, the rest for two days each.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association, said: "I am sure it will have the effect intended. The prospect of loss of liberty will operate on people's minds, particularly in the Grays area". Mr Norman said there were no examples of other courts taking similar action; but the principle of imposing deterrent sentences, for example, in cases of telephone box vandalism by young

offenders, in incidents of violence, and in cases of shoplifting, was a well established one.

"I would have thought generally that this was publicly acceptable," he said.

Mr Norman said since the policy concerning drunk driving was announced after the Brewster Sessions in August, only one driver had appealed against a custodial sentence. His six months' imprisonment was reduced to three.

"If anyone should think the deterrent sentence is not a sound principle, their remedy is to appeal," he said.

The Department of Transport, which has launched its pre-Christmas campaign against drinking and driving said: "Our view is that we would rather people did not get into that position; it is only to be welcomed insofar as it might act as a further deterrent."

"The whole point of the

campaign is not the hope of catching more people but that more and more will not mix drinking and driving."

Mailcoach of the twentieth century

By Michael Hornsby

Like fresh-faced ghosts, three passengers brave the winter chill outside the Pack Horse Hotel in Louth, on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, awaiting the postbus, just as their ancestors did two centuries before them.

The distinctive red and yellow 11-seat Dodge is a world away from the Royal Mail stage-coach which set off from the old coaching inn on the muddy road to London.

But the concept of carrying mail and passengers by road is the same, even though the route followed by Mr John Killick, the postman, is less exciting than that of his predecessors, a 25-mile circular loop round the countryside via Muckton Bottom.

On the way, Mr Killick, aged 49, who collects the fares, stops to empty 13 post boxes.

It is one of three daily services run by the Post Office at Louth, the longest being the 55-mile morning run through Gainsborough, which takes five hours and 35 minutes because the postman has to deliver the mail on the way.

But the postman, only the oldest of whom distinctly remembers more conventional bus services through the wolds, are patient for it is better to take one's time than to walk and better to keep rural communities in touch with each other than isolated.

The Louth postbus service was launched 10 years ago at a time when rural county councils were desperately seeking ways of diversifying themselves of the financial pressures imposed by normal, under-used bus services.

Now the Post Office runs 176 postbus services, predominantly in Scotland, where more experienced postmen have been



All aboard: Passengers of the Louth postbus (Photograph: John Manning).

known to carry the occasional sheep and pick up prescriptions from the doctor for some of their passengers, and the service is expanding south of the border.

Last year postbuses, of which there are now 14 in England, covered 3.3 million passenger miles.

The Post Office, which roughly breaks even on its postbus operation, told *The Times*: "We feel it is very successful, not so much financially but because it carries on the tradition of the Post Office role as part of Britain's social fabric."

Lincolnshire County Council pays an annual subsidy of about £600 to the Post Office for the service after the



Mrs Pat Henshaw, a pensioner from Bargate Tathwell, a hamlet with 35 houses, asked: "Where else would you get a postman prepared in all weathers to drop you at your door with a pile of shopping?"

3 years for man who 'reenacted film chase'

Melvin Cross, aged 29, who crashed through a police roadblock and into a car with a family of four still inside, was reenacting the scene from the film *Vanishing Point*. Norwich Crown Court was told yesterday.

In the film the driver of the car is chased across the United States and dies in a fire after crashing the car into a police roadblock. After watching the film Cross stole a car from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, drank a bottle of vodka and wine, smoked cannabis and was then chased by police up to speeds of 90mph before crashing into a hastily set up roadblock at Wroxham, Norfolk.

Mr John Farmer, for the prosecution said Police Constable Malcolm Reeves leapt for his life seconds before the car driven by Cross hit an almost new Mini Metro, which had been stopped by the police at the roadblock and the police car. Still inside the Metro was Mr Gordon Phillips a teacher of Holly House, Fincham, Norfolk, his wife Josephine, his son Joshua, aged 10 and daughter, Holly, aged seven.

They suffered minor injuries but their car was written off and was replaced at a cost of £3,500 with the police paying the bill.

Cross, unemployed, of Kersey Avenue, Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk, was jailed for three years and banned from driving for five years after pleading guilty to motoring offences.

Cross, who had numerous motoring convictions, was told by the Recorder Mr Gerald Drycott:

Within five weeks of being released from jail for a previous conviction of reckless driving you committed an even worse offence. I have never listened to a more horrifying case of driving than yours and you are extremely lucky you are not facing life imprisonment for manslaughter.

You are highly dangerous. Someone who takes a car then drinks and takes drugs is like a wild beast and as dangerous as a lion which he escaped from its cage."

Restoration to start on Whitehall site

By John Young

The restoration of Richmond Terrace, in Whitehall, which for the past three and a half years has been cocooned in a giant polythene envelope, is to go ahead. A contract has been awarded to Taylor Woodrow Construction, and work will start next month.

The once handsome Georgian terrace stands opposite Downing Street, on a route used by millions of tourists every year.

In 1969, it was scheduled for demolition to make way for a new Home Office building, but there were angry protests and, after a public inquiry, the Government agreed that the facades at least should be retained, along with Norman Shaw's New Scotland Yard.

In 1973, it was vacated by the Foreign Office as unsafe. Two years later the Government commissioned a study into its possible use as offices for MPs and in 1978, Mr Peter Shore, then Secretary of State for the Environment, announced that restoration was to go ahead at a cost of £8.5m. It is now estimated that the complete restoration project will cost £28m.

Whitehall-police clash on drugs

By Stewart Tindall, Crime Reporter

The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers may be heading for a collision over Whitehall criticism that chief constables are not responding strongly enough to Britain's increasing drug abuse problems.

Senior officials are understood to be extremely unhappy at the association's "lack lustre" reaction to a government policy statement this week by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, on curbing drug abuse.

Mr Brittan put forward the Government's plans in a speech on Wednesday. At the same time, the association issued a statement to coincide with his announcement.

The four-sentence statement, which went largely unreported, said that police shared the concern about drug abuse. While the police were working

police have been partly influenced by the series of corruption incidents found within Scotland Yard's drug squad during the 1970s. As a result, customs investigators have taken the initiative in many major cases, leaving the police with minor investigations or small possession cases.

Within London, Scotland Yard is known to feel that the current drug squad of about 40 men is adequate to meet the demands of the capital's large drugs black market. Surveys by the police have not shown any undue public concern which might be met by increasing the squad.

Whitehall would like to see greater emphasis on dealers rather than the small-time street operators, and indications of more energy and commitment from chief constables.

Sailing ships rot in Falklands grave

By Tony Samstag

minimise disturbance of the square riggers.

Mr Michael Mensun Bound, a maritime archaeologist and an islander, says that the ships "are mostly survivors of the great trades which flourished during the last century with the west coast of South America and required the best ships in order to survive the heavy loads and the constant slamming westerslies around Cape Horn".

It is newsletter published this week described the ships as "the finest natural museum of nautical antiquity in the world", which "in the turmoil of post-war Falklands are every bit as threatened as the wildlife".

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nautical graveyard. The wrecks have survived because of the islands' isolation and climate.

Mr Bound says that the American vessels *Charles Cooper* and *Snow Squall* the most important. The *Cooper*, a packet ship built in 1856, "dominates Stanley's waterfront" but is in a critical condition.

The *Snow Squall* is "the only true survivor of a clipper ship", of which only about 40 foot is above water.

Some ships have been bought by American museums

PARLIAMENT December 16 1983

MPs support Bill designed to break conveyancing monopoly

Commons

The House Buyers Bill, designed to break the conveyancing monopoly of solicitors, received its second reading in the Commons by 162 votes to 76 - majority 30. After a closure motion had been carried by 100 votes to 14, a majority of 86.

This occurred after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, had announced that the Government intended to introduce its own legislation to extend the right of conveyancing to non-solicitors who had not sold land, to solicitors employed by building societies and banks, subject to safeguards.

He indicated that the Government intended to proceed promptly so as not to delay the introduction of additional competition. The Government's move had not related to the possibility of solicitors employed in other than building societies and banks being included, but in some cases there might be conflict of interest.

The Director General of Fair Trading would ensure that competition was fair. The Government wanted to see house buying made simpler and cheaper.

We have decided (he said) that more can be done to consider the process of conveyancing as a whole with a view to simplifying the practice and procedure wherever possible and will set up a special committee under the Law Commission to examine various proposals and to ensure that the work going on in many areas is co-ordinated, and the work kept under review.

The Government intended that the committee should come forward with recommendations for cheapening and simplification of convey-

ancing and house purchasing which it would be anxious to adopt. The Law Society supported this.

The sponsor of the Bill, Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby, Lab), in moving the second reading said the monopoly of conveyancing held by solicitors was keeping the process of house buying in the age of the computer. The Bill made provision for the licensing of conveyancers.

The process of house buying could be greatly simplified by grouping all the various agencies, legal, estate agents, banks, and building societies, in one group rather than leaving it to the house buyer to coordinate all their activities.

That was what was preventing such a move says the monopoly on conveyancing held by solicitors; it stopped the process dead.

The Bill would clear away some of the obstacles which prevented at least a move towards a comprehensive system.

It was not as if drawing up conveyances was a particularly skilled task in most cases. All it required was an ability to read and to put names on a form, and that was scandalous.

The monopoly not only stopped other people doing the work; it even stopped solicitors competing with estate agents as was allowed in Scotland. The introduction of competition would make conveyancing easier, cheaper and more efficient.

The Bill was only a partial measure to allow solicitors to adjust to competition which was undoubtedly going to come, rather than trying to sweep away the monopoly as that of non-solicitors being dishonest or careless with money.

Every national newspaper editorial had supported him with a unique chorus of support. The

Times had said the Government would do well to enact the Bill and "take a lead in the regulation of the solicitors with a pinch of salt".

This monopoly (he said) is odious, it is unpopular; it is contrary to the spirit of the age and it must go.

Sir Walter Clegg (Wrexham, C), chairman of the all-party solicitors' group said it used to be the case that there was no competition within the profession but now that there was

but solicitors had a fund into which all paid to cover the solicitors who defaulter. Unrestricted conveyancers would have to get together in groups for such a purpose.

Mr Kenneth Weetech (Ipswich, Lab) said that conveyancers already had corporate policy which covered them for dishonesty.

Sir Walter Clegg said that the Bill had a major deficiency in providing for competence.

Mr John Morris, Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said if the legislation in its final form would result in a disservice to the public it should be asked whether it was necessary to support it. While there were criticisms to be made, he did not think the aims could be anything but good.

Conveyancing was a £1,000 industry and formed the bulk of many solicitors' incomes so the question had to be asked whether the system was meeting today's needs in the best way.

There was need for a careful approach to make sure that one monopoly was not simply changed for another, or for a duopoly, if that was the right word. If the banks and building societies were to do the work, there would have to be changes in their legislation and they would have to be aware of any keenness by the banks to take it on and the building societies were divided.

The Bill would act as a catalyst giving the Law Commission a fundamental examination of the law of property transfers and the adoption of today's technology, but it might be a matter for the Law Commission and that body ought to be given the resources to get on with the job.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, said the Government was on solid common ground with the sponsors in their objectives. Lack of competition with the monopoly already existing was just as insidiously to induce solicitors to charge high charges and indifferent services as did lack of competition with a group of

buying a house was probably the most expensive and momentous

personal transaction anyone undertakes and if it went wrong, it could cause disaster and misery. The issue seemed to be how best to achieve competition with adequate safeguards for house buyers not sufficiently expert to be able to safeguard themselves.

But the protection in the Bill was inferior to that given by present arrangements. Essentially, the Government felt the existing degree of competition was unduly restrictive.

There were three main options to develop competition between solicitors in private practice: to enable solicitors employed by organizations like banks and building societies to do the work; to widen the field of conveyancing by establishing some form of licensing system to permit non-solicitors to do it.

Competition between solicitors had already improved greatly in recent years, and the third option would not provide the necessary protection. But extending conveyancing rights to employees of solicitors offered a sensible means by which a further element of competition could be injected.

It was essential to protect the interests of the borrower and it was necessary to consult interested parties about how potential conflicts

might be overcome. It was right that that should be looked at before legislation.

It was an instance where competition could be increased without prejudicing protection for the consumer.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, Lab) said he thought 80 per cent of conveyancing was done without any solicitor activity, or with only a minimal amount.

Sir Ian Poreval (Southport, C) said nobody should think all conveyancing was a dodger. He like the thought of someone wanting to bridge a loan from the bank having the bank say it would do the conveyancing, too. This would put consumers at risk in an invidious situation. Thirdly, the Bill's provisions on qualifications for conveyancers bore no reference to competence.

Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeoovil, L) said he supported the aims of the Bill but it did not fulfil its aim of protecting consumers. It was skewed as to make it difficult to improve it.

Mr Mitchell, replying to the debate, said the Bill had been cleared by a special Government committee.

The Lord Chancellor had triumphed. A half dead mouse had been laid before the House.

Six other Bills unopposed

Six backbench Bills were given unopposed second readings in the Commons. They were headed by the Child Abduction Bill which replaces the offence of child stealing with two new offences, one dealing with the abduction of children from the UK by a parent or anyone else connected with the child, and the other to deal with abductions by people unrelated to the child.

The Anatomy Bill contains provisions about the use of whole or parts of bodies for anatomical examination.

The Disqualification Bill disqualifies from jury service in England and Wales those who have criminal records. The length of

disqualification depending on the sentence.

The Lotteries (Amendment) Bill seeks to amend the Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 to abolish certain offences relating to foreign lotteries.

The Trade Marks Act 1938 (Amendment) Bill seeks to give registration to trade marks for services in addition to goods.

The final Bill nodded through was the Agriculture (Amendment) Bill to enable guarantees of bank loans to be made for a wider range

Israel denies offering safe conduct for evacuation of Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government yesterday stepped up its war of nerves against Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, by flatly denying that it had given any guarantee of safe conduct to the Greek authorities for his proposed evacuation from Tripoli.

The denial, which followed reports of contacts between Israel and Greece over the plan, was made by a senior Government official at a briefing for foreign journalists. "Israel did not give any commitment to anyone about anything," he said in answer to repeated questions.

The briefing, which came hours after Israel's fourth naval bombardment of PLO positions around the north Lebanon port, was apparently designed to maintain the high level of international apprehension surrounding the evacuation. Asked if the central thrust of Israel's policy was to keep the world guessing, the official acknowledged candidly: "Maybe that is the name of the game."

Despite the denial of contacts, direct or indirect, with the Greeks, it is still considered unlikely that Israel will launch any attack once Mr Arafat and his 4,000 men are on board their Greek vessels under escort from French and American

warships. But increased Israeli military action in Tripoli up until the final moment of embarkation is considered a firm option.

Yesterday, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, held private talks with Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, at which the subject of the evacuation is understood to have been discussed. Neither party would give any account of the meeting to the press.

Earlier, Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, played his part in the policy of attempting to prevent, or at least delay, the PLO guerrillas' departure by again expressing the hope that Western nations would not "assist the evacuation of the PLO with their weapons to other locations where they can continue their terror activities against Israel and non-Israeli targets."

The minister claimed that Israel was using diplomatic channels to try and persuade any nation preparing to assist in the evacuation to first get "a commitment from Arafat that he will lay down his arms and stop all terror activities."

Speaking after a memorial service for the 28 Israeli Druze Arabs so far killed in the French war ships would escort them to Lebanon for the rescue operation.

ATHENS: The 6,222-ton Greek ferry-boat Vergina, flying a United Nations flag, was the first of five Greek passenger ships to sail from Greece yesterday for Tripoli (Mario Modiano writes).

A Greek Government spokesman said that the five ships would meet up at Larnaca, in Cyprus, from where French war ships would escort them to Lebanon for the rescue operation.

Anger at 190 pc inflation

From Our Correspondent, Jerusalem

Israeli trade unionists yesterday launched a series of mass protest demonstrations directed at the Government's failure to solve the serious inflationary spiral now destined to produce an all-time record inflation rate between 190 and 200 per cent by the end of the year.

The three days of protest were prompted by the publication of official statistics showing that prices rose by 15.2 per cent during the single month of November, bringing it to 40 per cent the erosion in wages registered over the past two months.

Despite the latest grim economic statistics, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the new Prime Minister, pledged publicly on Thursday that there would be no cutback in the costly programme of continuing to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The failure of his new Finance Minister, Mr Yigal Cohen-Orgad, to exercise restraint on runaway inflation is posing a growing threat to the

after details were leaked of his controversial scheme to switch the whole Israeli economy onto a US dollar basis.

But the claims did little to soften the effect of the latest price rises (including a 1.88 per cent increase in the cost of food products over the last 12 months) which, according to economic experts, meant that the annual inflation rate for 1983 will be close to 200 per cent. This compares with recent government pledges that the rate of increase would soon be reduced, and inflation cut back to double figures.

During the past 11 months, prices in Israel have already risen by 160.5 per cent, ensuring that the annual figure will easily outstrip the previous record total of 132.9 per cent inflation reached in 1980 - also under a Likud government.

The new series of workers' demonstrations is just one of many pointers that the runaway rate of price increases is now beginning to threaten the whole social fabric of the country.

ANC man arrested in South Africa

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Five whites and an alleged black African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla have been arrested in the Johannesburg area. Major-General Frans Steenkamp, the head of the South African Security Police, said the whites, including two women, were arrested as a result of investigations after the conviction for high treason last month of Mr Carl Niehaus, aged 23, a white student, and his fiancée, Miss Jansie Lourens. They are being held incommunicado under the Internal Security Act.

General Steenkamp described the black guerrilla as a well-known and trained ANC terrorist and said arms, including Soviet-made limpet mines, had been seized. Last week, Security Police announced the arrest of two suspected ANC guerrillas after a shootout in the Coloured Johannesburg suburb of Eldorado Park.

Meanwhile, security was stepped up in Johannesburg yesterday after a bomb blast on Thursday evening in a city-centre office of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Seven blacks, women office cleaners and watchmen were slightly injured in the explosion which occurred only a few minutes after the evening rush hour.

It was the third attack on government offices in Johannesburg - all carried out with limpet mines - this month.

● Sea change: Signs apologizing for apartheid will be put up around whites-only children's paddling pools on the beach front at Durban. South Africa's main coastal resort.

Vatican attacks boxing as coma victim worsens

Milan (Reuter) - The Vatican newspaper yesterday questioned the morality of boxing, as the condition of an Italian fighter who collapsed last weekend deteriorated.

An editorial in the *Osservatore Romano*, citing the case of Salvatore La Serra, who is in a coma, said no sport or spectacle could be accepted by a civilized conscience if it put human life at stake.

Other sports, such as car racing and mountaineering, were arguably more dangerous,



Many a slip: Reaching for a woman customer's lighter, Sydney waiter Richard Daldini fell from the Harbourwatch Restaurant's balcony and was left hanging 50ft up

Global abuse of journalists continues

By David Cross

The free world would not even consider crimes.

Most of Eastern Europe continues to jail journalists and writers, as does most of Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia. "Some do not even bother with the luxury of prisons, some prefer more direct measures like the bullet."

Newsmen and publishers have found that speaking the truth is not a guaranteed right of the individual, but something to be suppressed or distorted, the institute says. The signatories to the United Nations Charter on

Human Rights or the Helsinki Agreement are breaking their word. "Today, only a small part of the globe can boast that free speech is respected and honoured. The rest of the world is gagged."

The institute also criticizes the free press for reporting too little about abuses against journalists. "Those governments who are the worst offenders are often guided by the reactions of the outside world," it says.

The report also singles out South Africa as a country where press freedom is under constant

attack. More than 60 per cent of the editors of the main Sunday newspapers have been convicted or threatened with prosecution.

In many other countries, journalists face other dangers than their right rarely comes to light. "Many governments around the world continue to dispose of troublesome reporters silently. "Some are 'disappeared', never to return, while others are placed in hospitals for the insane, only to be released when they are 'cured'."

West sees hope in Pretoria's Angola offer

From Zoriana Pysarowsky, New York

The South African proposal for disengagement of its forces in southern Angola has been met with surprise and scepticism by black African countries, which saw such as a ruse to gain Western sympathy. The West, however, thought it offered possibilities for settling the issue of Cuban troops in Angola.

In a letter to the United Nations on Thursday, Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said Pretoria was prepared to disengage its troops on condition that Angola provides assurances that it would not exploit the situation.

This meant that neither Angola's forces, nor Cuban troops protecting the MPLA regime, nor Swapo guerrillas operating from Angola with the aim of securing Namibia's independence, could make moves in the area. Although it was not spelt out, the offer sounded much like a proposal for a demilitarized zone.

The proposal in itself was not new, since it had been the subject of negotiations between South Africa and Angola which broke down earlier this year. South African officials said the date set to begin disengagement, January 31, was negotiable and meant to give impetus to a resumption of talks.

The offer came as the Security Council met at South Africa's request to consider South Africa's occupation of southern Angola. Africans saw it as a pre-emptive move to escape serious calls for sanctions and reduce Western pressure for a Namibian settlement.

But the proposal fits neatly with attempts by the five-member Western contact group to place the removal of South African forces from southern Angola within the context of Cuban withdrawal. Angola has rejected the idea of concluding a Namibian settlement with the departure of Cuban troops and, by another name, it would seem to make it more palatable.

South Africa has said it will not give up Namibia unless it has an undertaking that the Cubans will leave. Although only the United States supports it in this position, many other countries are privately convinced that the two issues must go hand-in-hand if there is to be a Namibian solution.

The Angolan initiative in the Security council is considered to be part of a domestic campaign aimed at rallying Angolans against the rebel Unita organization, which operates in the south with South African support and poses a threat to the stability of the government in Luanda.

While South Africa has never officially admitted that its forces are entrenched in southern Angola, Western analysts estimate that 2,000 to 3,000 troops are in the area.

No evidence Andropov is working again

Moscow (Reuter) - US and West European diplomats say they have no evidence that President Yuri Andropov is back at work after his four-month absence. They denied reports from Washington that western embassies in Moscow had already sighted him.

"A Politburo motorcade has been seen driving regularly to and from the Kremlin but so far there is no evidence that Andropov is inside it," one diplomat said.

A senior Communist Party spokesman, Mr Leonid Zamyanin, said last week that the 69-year-old President was recovering from an illness and already working again. Speculation now is whether he will appear at a plenum of the party's Central Committee on December 26 or 27.

Cocaine haul in New York

New York (AP) - A record 1,600 lb of cocaine with an estimated street value of £110m was seized and three men arrested in what the authorities said was the largest drug seizure ever in the New York city area.

The cocaine, described as high-quality Colombian, was found in duffel bags and boxes when a combined federal, state and city drug task force arrested the three men late on Thursday in Queens Borough.

Minister quits

Santiago (Reuter) - Chile's Foreign Minister Senor Miguel Schweitzer, resigned after 10 months defending the record of President Augusto Pinochet's military government. Last week the UN General Assembly passed its annual censure vote on Chile's human rights record.

Envoy moved

Moscow (AP) - The Soviet Ambassador to Angola, Mr Vadim Loginov, has been relieved of his duties and transferred to another post, Tass said. He is replaced by Mr Arnold Kalinin, ambassador to Portugal between 1974 and 1982.

Basque blasts

Las Barinas (Reuter) - An officer and a soldier were slightly injured when two bombs planted by suspected guerrillas went off at a military shooting range near this northern Spanish town.

Ice breaker

Yamoussoukro (AP) - Ghanaians working in the Ivory Coast gave an airport welcome to Ghana's military leader Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings who arrived for talks with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, their first bilateral contact. Until now both have regarded each other with open suspicion.

Killings in Indonesia 'should be over now'

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta

The spate of summary killings of alleged criminals, which has received notes from several foreign governments expressing concern over the killings, but said he had not yet seen a message from the International Commission on Human Rights which is also understood to have expressed concern over the killings.

Mochar, speaking at a press briefing, said: "The foreign press is not supposed to have occurred after the President's (National Day) speech in August, when he said these measures have to be carried out within the dictates of the law." The foreign Minister said he

had received notes from several foreign governments expressing concern over the killings, but said he had not yet seen a message from the International Commission on Human Rights which is also understood to have expressed concern over the killings.

The shootings of alleged criminals in main cities met with little opposition and considerable public approval when they started early this year. Newspapers carried front page photographs of bound and bullet-ridden bodies, many of them carrying the tattoos worn by ex-convict gangs.

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President
Cordon Negro

DWS

Mauroy intervenes in car dispute as recession bites deeper in France

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The recession, which came later to France than to most other industrialized countries, is finally beginning to pinch, causing unions and management to harden their positions and the Government to quake.

The announcement on Thursday by the car manufacturer Peugeot-Talbot that it is to close indefinitely from Monday its factory at Poissy, outside Paris, where workers have been on strike for the past week in protest against redundancy plans, is almost certainly a sign of worse to come on the industrial front.

Peugeot, France's largest privately-owned car manufacturer, which is expected to lose 2 billion francs (£170m) this year, took the decision to lay-off its 17,000 workers at Poissy in an attempt to force the Government to accept its proposals for nearly 3,000 compulsory redundancies at the factory. The redundancies are part of an overall slimming plan for the company involving the loss of nearly 10 per cent of its 18,000 workforce.

It is a sign of the gravity with which the Government is treating the dispute that M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, has himself decided to take the matter in hand. Emergency meetings were taking place between the Peugeot management and the Government yesterday.

The long-brewing crisis in the car industry could not have come to a head at a worse time for the Government. Within the last week it has been severely attacked for the alleged inadequacies of its industrial policy by two groups from which it might have expected more

support - the Socialist CFDT union, and the Communist Party, which only a fortnight ago signed a new agreement with the Socialists pledging greater loyalty to the Government.

Describing the Government's industrial policy as "secretive, inflexible and incoherent," M Edmond Maire, the moderate general-secretary of the CFDT, accused the Government of following up its "magnificent promises" with silence. "They say nothing, they announce no plans, no schemes, no figures. They keep the unions in complete ignorance."

The Government was spending huge sums amounting to 52 billion francs (£4.300m) this year to try to stop the industrial decline, but nothing was being done to prepare for the future, he complained. He feared that the Government's "search into the dark" would lead workers "to despair and revolt".

The CFDT's cry of alarm is not totally devoid of self-interest, however. The union has been much criticized for being a "toady" of the Government, and at the social security elections last October, it saw itself drop from its traditional number two position in the trade union hierarchy to number three. It has lost 15 per cent of its membership over the past year.

It was also important for the CFDT that the Communists and the Communist-led CGT union should not be seen to be the only defenders of workers' rights which are now being lost in the industrial sector at a rate of 30,000 a month, twice the rate at the beginning of the year. Furthermore, lay-offs are ex-

pected soon in coal, steel, construction, engineering, chemicals and textile industries.

A few days earlier, M Georges Marchais, the Communist Party leader, wrote to M Laurent Fabius, the Industry Minister, saying that it was "high time" that the Government followed its words by actions, and showed "greater rigour in keeping its promises in the crucial field of industry."

As M Fabius was away, it was M Max Gallo, the official Government spokesman, who launched the counter-attack. "To believe and to make others believe that you can always prevent redundancies, keep non-profitable businesses going, and accept ever greater losses, is to render a disservice to the workers, firms and the country, and disarm France in the tough field of international competition," he insisted.

The Government's reluctance to help lame ducks has also been referred to recently by M Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister. "Some enterprises are decaying, others are being born. The longer you keep the former in an oxygen tent, the more it will cost the taxpayer, and the less money there will be for new projects. And at the end of the day, instead of having 100 unemployed, you will have 200 unemployed," he said.

Figures announced yesterday show that the number of unemployed rose by 3 per cent last month, having been kept stable at around 2 million or just under 9 per cent of the workforce for more than a year. The Government continues to insist that it will take what measures are necessary to prevent unemployment rising

Vetran's treat: President Mitterrand of France talking in Belgrade yesterday with Mr Dragomir Tulimirov, aged 90, a veteran of the First World War, holding his unit's regimental flag. The French President placed flowers at a monument commemorating French assistance to Serbia during the First World War.

On the second day of his 3-day visit, he urged Moscow and Washington to resume negotiations (Dessa Trevisan writes).

He said the conference on European disarmament, which is due to open in Stockholm next month, might provide an

opportunity for a "useful dialogue". This in itself would be a "positive factor", he stated.

M Mitterrand, who is on a three-day visit here, singled out the role played by the neutral and non-aligned countries at the European security review conference in reaching a compromise, urging them to persevere in their efforts at the forthcoming European conference on disarmament.

President Mitterrand went on to emphasize the importance which France attaches to the role Yugoslavia is playing between East and West, as well as in the non-aligned movement.

Seaga storms to pyrrhic victory

By Jeremy Taylor

Jamaica faces the prospect of five years with a one-party Parliament. Having thrashed independent and fringe candidates in a mere six constituencies in Thursday's elections Mr Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister and the ruling Jamaican Labour Party (JLP) now control all 60 seats in the House of Representatives. The other 54 seats were won uncontested.

But Jamaica has been unable to earn the hard currency it needs. A weak market for its main commodity, bauxite, together with rock bottom sugar prices and heavy debt servicing - \$3.50m this year - have robbed the island of precious foreign exchange.

Unemployment is steady at around 26 per cent. Inflation is increasing sharply after being brought below 5 per cent and last summer factories were working at an average of only 49 per cent of capacity.

A series of experiments with multiple exchange rates and a parallel currency market failed to bring in the expected flow of foreign exchange and at the end of September Jamaica failed for the second time this year to meet the quarterly performance test of the IMF, severely embarrassing Mr Seaga, causing a 43 per cent devaluation and leading directly to premature elections.

Mr Seaga's gamble has now bought the JLP another five years.

However, the Opposition

boycott leaves a large question mark over the election result. Mr Manley, who argues that the three-year-old voting list disenfranchises 15 per cent of the electorate and contains 100,000 names of people who have died or migrated, knows that Mr Seaga has a very difficult task ahead in producing economic recovery and is expected to push for the swift implementation of the agreed electoral reforms followed by fresh elections.

Jamaica's economy is still far

A new 15 months' standby credit with the IMF is being completed.

Mr Seaga promises that the

lack of Parliamentary opposition will not result in "unwise or insensitive Government".

But the election result could lead to increasing political tension or a resurgence of political violence.

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Argentina to find out why 7,000 disappeared

From Douglas Tweedie
Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin has appointed a commission to investigate the disappearance of more than 7,000 people who vanished during the Argentine military campaign against urban terrorism in the 1970s.

The 16-member commission, which includes journalists, authors, churchmen and scientists known for their concern about human rights violations will have access to military and Government records in order to determine what happened to the missing persons.

The commission will have no power to try those responsible for the murders, but has been instructed to submit all evidence of possible crimes to the courts. It is to produce a report on its findings in six months' time.

Argentine human rights groups have documented the disappearance of more than 7,000 people who are believed to have been kidnapped and killed by Government security forces during what the military has called its "dirty war" against left-wing subversion from 1976 to 1981.

But relatives of disappeared people and human rights activists believe the figure of missing people is closer to 30,000, due to the many incompletely documented cases and instances of disappeared persons whose families did not report them as missing out of fear.

Meanwhile, former President Isabel Peron, who was overthrown by the 1976 military coup, prepared to leave Argentina after a one-week visit during which she met President Alfonsin and began what is expected to be a thorough purge of the Peronist party which she formally heads.

Senora Peron was flying back to Madrid for what she promised would be a brief stay before returning to take full charge of the movement she inherited from President Juan Peron.

Iran's war fever fuels Iraqi panic

By Richard Dowden

As the Gulf war grinds through its fourth year the Iraqis are seeking peace at almost any price short of capitulation but Iran's internal politics dictate that it must continue until the Baghdad Government falls.

The war is going well for Iran. It can sustain a steady pressure on Iraq, draining its resources and forcing it to be dependent on the Gulf States. Meanwhile the heavy casualties - some estimate that Iran has lost nearly a quarter of a million dead - help to maintain the revolutionary fervour and concentrate the minds of the people on an external enemy. The Khomeini regime has invested

It is the Pasdaran who have effectively made Khomeini the undisputed ruler of Iran. They have crushed the Mujahideen, the Islamic leftist opposition, and recently they attacked the offices of the Freedom Party, the only surviving secular party in the Majlis (parliament).

Although there is great discontent in Iran over the war, the shortages and the imposition of Islamic law, there is no organisation able to harness it into political opposition. Only the Grand Ayatollah present any resistance to their fellow cleric but since their main objection to Khomeini is that the Ulama (clergy) should not be involved in politics they cannot take their opposition further without undermining their own position.

The war酣畅s the energies of the militant youth. One Revolutionary Guard told me: "When we have rid Iraq of Baathism, we shall liberate Lebanon and Palestine".

While the tactics of the Pasdaran, the Revolutionary Guards, are similar to Hitler's Brown Shirts or Mao's Red Guards, their fervour mingled with leftist fury gives them a self-righteousness and the conviction of having God on their side. "Our revolution is to change people not just structures," one told me. "I have a duty to protect you from harming yourself by failing to obey the law of God just as I have a duty to stop you jumping off that building."

Supplied with fleets of new white Nissan Jeep-style vehicles they force their way through the Tehran traffic with an arrogant disregard for traffic laws or civil police. Their uniform is dunced-coloured clothes, anoraks or just open-neck shirt and at least three days growth of beard. Some of them have bulges under their jackets. They pursue sin as vigilantly as political opposition and are as likely to

be seen stopping a woman for not having a proper veil as leading the crowds in chanting slogans against their enemies.

The question in many people's minds is whether they can be controlled or whether they and their leader, Mohsen Rezaei, will become an independent force.

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The question every observer asks is what will happen when Khomeini dies. Although he is apparently removed from the structures of government, all power passes through his hands and his word is law. But he represents more than political leadership and his will will not die with him. If they grab his mantle his successors will be able to rule in his name for some time. Provision has been made for the election of one, two or five successors but it seems likely that Hoesseini Akbar Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Majlis, will assume the reins of government and Ali Hussein Montazeri the only Grand Ayatollah who totally supports Khomeini (he is also his son-in-law) will assume a figurehead role. These two politicians have been making moderate statements over the past year trying to reassure the professional and commercial classes.

But there is little evidence that the Ayatollah is near to dying. He is 81 but is said to be in good health and has a brother aged 96. He and the Gulf war could be with us for some time.

This time Malaysia, which explored ways to make its international mark, came up

with the idea of launching an international debate on Antarctica, a clarion call which was quickly echoed by a majority of the UN's membership who do not like the treaty's "gentle-men's club" and constructed Antarctic Treaty and pave the way for universal decision-making in the region.

Senor Javier Perez de Cuello, the Secretary-General, has been given a year in which to prepare the report. He will have to thread a fine line between the signatories of the treaty and the rest of the world's nations which would like to see Antarctica declared the common heritage of mankind, and those rare instances in which the two super powers find themselves in agreement.

The report provides a period of grace for the treaty's 16 consultative parties who joined in the consensus resolution calling for the report rather reluctantly. Faced with an immediate confrontation, they chose the lesser of two evils, but the issue will undoubtedly become an emotive one in a year's time. Delegates recalled that the genesis of the now concluded Law of the Sea treaty was a seemingly innocuous statement by Malta calling for the sharing of the sea's wealth.

This time Malaysia, which explored ways to make its international mark, came up

Poll shows Mondale is Democrats' choice

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

The approach of Christmas brings good news for Mr Walter Mondale but disappointment for Senator John Glenn. According to a poll carried out by The Washington Post/ABC News, the former Vice-President is continuing to pull ahead of Senator Glenn and six other Democrats seeking the 1984 Presidential nomination.

Mr Mondale's support among registered Democrats is now equal to that of all the other candidates combined. The poll showed that Mr Mondale is the choice of 49 per cent of registered Democrats, compared with 23 per cent for Senator Glenn, 10 per cent for the Rev Jesse Jackson and 8 per cent for Mr George McGovern.

One of the poll's most significant findings is that Mr Mondale is running stronger against President Reagan than Senator Glenn. Mr Mondale and Mr Reagan are now neck-and-neck among registered voters.

The poll also shows that Mr Mondale's support is highest where it counts most if he is to gain the Democratic nomination next year - among those most likely to vote in Presidential primaries which are scheduled to get under way in February.

A separate poll carried out by the Louis Harris Organization has indicated that President Reagan's overall approval rating has begun to slip after rising sharply following the Grenada invasion.

Children ask Santa to send us peace

Hummelport (AP) - The letters to "Dear Santa" are again pouring into this West German town with a heavenly name - it means "Heaven's Gates" - but this year their theme is different.

Instead of pleading for sledges or toys, the children are asking Santa to stop the nuclear arms race and bring peace to the world.

There is no great belief in the Council that the Commission has the leadership or initiative to win more power.

In the words of one diplomat: "These boys don't have the guts to do anything but moan."

Others are worried about hunger. An three-year-old boy named Christian, from Nuremberg, asked him to take cakes and chocolate to African children. Two little girls from Oldenburg, Stephanie and Daniela, wanted nothing for Christmas because they knew children in other countries were hungry.

"Many children write about jobless parents and family problems, such as grumpy fathers and overbearing older brothers," Herr Pilarski said. "Many of the letters are quite sad."

One boy, Torsten, wrote to say his mother wants a one-year

parties when the antitax Progress Party of Mr Mogens Glistrup, the tax lawyer currently serving a three-year prison sentence for gross tax fraud, refused to support the Government after insisting unsuccessfully on further cuts in public spending.

Only the small centrist Radical Party supported the coalition in the vote. The defeat of the Government on its economic policy followed a recent series of humiliating parliamentary rebuffs on foreign policy issues, notably Nato missile deployment policy which Mr Schlüter has been forced unwillingly to oppose by the opposition.

Recent opinion polls predict a landslide victory for Conservatives who stand to almost double their present 26 seats in Parliament at the cost, however, of their coalition partners. This makes it extremely doubtful whether Mr Schlüter will be able to form a majority administration after relection.

Only two out of Denmark's political parties will run in the elections. There are only nine in the current 179-seat parliament.

The last Danish general election was in December 1981.

Others are worried about separation from his father. "Please give me something to help me understand this," the boy wrote.

The letter-writing tradition started in 1962, when a German journalist reported about a six-year-old girl who had written to Santa at Hummelport, and received a reply, penned by a local postman. After that the letters poured in.

At first the postmen answered them all but when Herr Pilarski retired 10 years ago he became a full-time Santa. He and his wife Margarete answer every letter, sometimes with the help of the neighbours. The cost of the operation is shared by the post office and the village.

Why Britain's rebate was blocked

Three pretenders to the EEC throne

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

An intense power struggle is under way between the three main institutions of the EEC to decide who actually rules in the Community. As a result, Britain, this week saw an agreed budget rebate blocked by the Parliament, while the whole Community is teetering on the brink of a destructive cash crisis.

The power struggle derives from the fact that the 14-member Commission has been unable to prevent the Council settling into the driving seat of all the Community processes. At the same time, the Parliament, anxious to make a name for itself before next June's direct elections, is jostling for the Commission's power.

The Council can claim the right to be top dog for one reason - it pays. All the money



مكتبة من الأصل

Japanese conservatives head for victory despite vague poll predictions

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Politicians remained remarkably vague over just how well Japan's ruling Conservative Liberal Democrats (CDP) will perform when voters go to the polls in Sunday's general election, the first in three and a half years, as candidates took advantage of the last few hours of an indecisive 15-day campaign.

What is virtually certain is that Japan will wake up on Monday to find the conservatives still in charge. Opposition parties are expected to face mixed results, with the biggest the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), battling uphill. Japan, therefore, will continue to pursue the increasingly outward-looking and nationalistic policies being shaped by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister.

Indeed, the election has taken on the look of an internal LDP

popularity contest, rather than a referendum on national policies. Most importantly, the results will probably foreshadow Mr Nakasone's chances of remaining as leader in a party vote late next year.

Mr Nakasone has campaigned hard to project a statesmanlike image emphasising diplomatic accomplishment since coming to office a year ago. Two days before the vote, the Prime Minister announced he will visit China in March. The visit is timed significantly between an exchange of official visits by US and Chinese leaders.

The strategy may work. Mr Nakasone modestly claims that his party will achieve at least a simple majority in the election. Most surveys say the LDP, in power since 1955, will come close to a stable majority of

about 270 seats in the 511-member Lower House allowing control of most important committees.

This compares with 286 LDP seats when Mr Nakasone called the election to end more than a month of parliamentary deadlock which followed the Oct 12 conviction of Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, on bribery charges in the Lockheed trial.

Projections of the results generally have allowed for such wide margins of error as to make them meaningless. The *Isashi Shinbun*, for example, a harsh critic of Mr Nakasone and Mr Tanaka, who controls the biggest faction in the LDP, said yesterday that the LDP would win 278 seats. This is the highest among the polls published so far, but it is hedged within a margin of 267 to 289.

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US accepts Australian nuclear arms curb

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Canberra believes the United States has accepted its position that nuclear-armed warships will be allowed to use Australian dry docks only in emergencies. But talks with Britain have not been so fruitful.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, said on Thursday that, after telephone discussions between Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister and his British and US counterparts, differences with Washington had been resolved.

However, talks between Canberra and London had not been so successful after the dispute over the ban on the British aircraft carrier Invincible using the navy dry-dock at Garden Island, in Sydney Harbour. Invincible now seems certain to go to Singapore for repairs. The ship is scheduled to spend Christmas in Australia.

"I would think in respect of the United States the matter is resolved — they understand and there will be no problems there. There's a bit more discussion going on with the United Kingdom. This matter will be resolved in a way which is totally satisfactory to our allies and to us, without any change in principle."

These lurid suggestions that our alliances in some way or another are threatened are just hogwash."

Mr Scholes said he had initiated the talks with Mr Heseltine, the British Defence Secretary and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, to discuss "the means by which the existing guidelines on visits by allied naval vessels can be developed to take account of special requirements for dry-docking."

The talks were preliminary and would be followed by others between officials from the three countries.

On Thursday Mr Scholes visited the Invincible and lunched with her captain and the British High Commissioner, Mr John Mason. Afterwards, Mr Scholes blamed the media and the federal opposition for the problems over the issue of dry-docking nuclear-armed vessels.

Treasure chest

Tokyo (AP) — A bakery lorry driver, sacking boxes for boxes in a Tokyo dump, discovered 50m yen (£150,000) worth of diamonds, emeralds, sapphires and rubies discarded in error by a jeweler's staff. His reward for turning them in was £15,000.

Panda prizes

Peking (Reuters) — Chinese peasants are being offered rewards of up to 500 yuan (£175) for saving starving giant pandas, the *China Daily* reported. The reward is about double the annual income of the average peasant.

Revolution ahead: The present 1950s-style look of traffic

hall, which they had held since winning elections in March 1981.

Gun-toting PRI henchmen have a history of terrorizing COCEI sympathizers in Juchitan.

President de la Madrid came to power a year ago with expansive claims that he would "morally renovate" traditionally corrupt Mexican politics. But after "clean" elections in July yielded triumphs for the opposition unprecedented during 50 years of uninterrupted PRI rule, the PRI has been winning elections in other states by its usual, astonishingly ample margins.

Past experience in Mexico has indicated that, whenever its massive political authority is under threat, the PRI's lurking capacity for violence and fraud will tend to rise to the surface. Mexican human rights groups claim that more than 600 people have "disappeared" for political reasons in Mexico in the last 10 years.

On Wednesday soldiers and police arrested 300 members, including all the leaders, of the local left-wing Coalition of Workers, Peasants and Students (COCEI).

Bishops from three states in southern Mexico have condemned the Government-in-

THE ARTS

Theatre

Donald Cooper



Susan Fleetwood as Prince Charming: Skillful note of ardour

Tradition served up limp

Cinderella

Lyttleton

Much as the nation may hunger

and thirst for a return to traditional Christmas pantomime, the National Theatre has gone beyond the call of duty with this limp museum piece.

The work of Bill Bryden, Trevor Ray and the company, it is a *faux naïf* exercise, requiring the audience to respond to the story as if they had never heard it before.

The style is directly opposite to that of the Players' Theatre's Victorian burlesques.

And although there is a safety curtain decorated with faded advertisements for Eltham's Embrocation and Bull Dog Bottled Beers, it relates to no particular period.

The idea is to conjure up a timeless romance, drawing on the old routines and painted scenic effects of a vanished age.

Even Standard Motors in

Madras, who used to produce

the Triumph-based model, still

have a motor car production

licence and may be tempted

into the field by the lifting of

price control which has accompa-

nied the new policy.

The civil servants and their

political masters certainly hope

so. It is claimed by the car

manufacturers that they were

inhibited from modernizing

their model lines by stringent

price control in the past.

The Government would like

to see what happened in the

tractor industry repeated with

the cars. There more than 10

firms entered the market when

price control was lifted. The

intense competition created a

new price controls, but at a

realistic level.

The building of the factory,

like everything concerned with

Sanjay Gandhi was controversial.

People complained that their

land was taken from them at

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personal friend of Mr Bansi Lal,

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

REHABILITATE, NOT DECAPITATE

A glimpse has now been offered of the arguments Mr Patrick Jenkin is using privately to secure for his rate capping Bill, due out next week, a better parliamentary reception than it deserves. They are, to do him justice, the same arguments as he has used publicly, with the added admission that the Government's chopped and changed financial relationship with local authorities has arrived at a condition of impenetrable chaos. Something has to be done. The something proposed is a giant stride towards central direction. Never, it appears, has Whitehall known better.

Mr Jenkin's first argument is that Britain is a unitary state. Local authorities are the creatures of Parliament, enjoying a merely statutory existence. Therefore there is no objection in principle to the central direction of the details of local expenditure and revenue raising. The premises are correct and the conclusion wrong.

This is a unitary state and councils are subordinate authorities, subject to statute. Parliament is fully entitled to do what it likes with them up to and including abolition. But it remains the case that to extinguish the discretion local authorities have historically possessed in determining their rate call and so varying their expenditure is to make a far-reaching change in the customary arrangements of government; and to that objec-

tion in principle may very well be taken.

Mr Jenkin's second argument is that government must be able to rely on the cooperation of local authorities in the realization of its economic and social objectives. If the cooperation is not forthcoming voluntarily it must be enforced. The proposition, broadly stated and subject to toleration of a reasonable amount of local variation, is uncontested. What is contested is the Government's claim that the "overspending" by councils, as Whitehall defines it, is actually putting major policy objectives at risk, when every penny of the extra expenditure is matched by extra yield from rates. The impediment to the execution of Government policies from that cause is not so great as to warrant a drastic diminution of the status of local government.

Mr Jenkin's third argument is that the proportion of rate income in the total income of local authorities, and the proportion of the sum paid in rates by domestic ratepayers in comparison with the sum paid by business and other non-voting ratepayers, and the proportion of domestic ratepayers who pay full rates in comparison with those who are subsidized or rebated, are all so low that the supposed financial accountability of councils to their electors is a nullity. He can point to the huge rate

increases imposed by runaway socialist councils in inner cities at a time of falling inflation. And it is convenient for Mr Jenkin, if not contrived, that the grant support juggling for the coming year pretty well guarantees that these same councils will remain true to form.

It is indeed scandalous that successive governments have allowed the financial and electoral framework of local government to deteriorate so far that in many places only the most tenuous local accountability remains. But whatever it is that drives Mr Jenkin to set about reform in the way he has, it is not conservative instinct. Local government needs putting back on its feet and he offers it the *coup de grâce*. Its electoral roots and financial base need patient and detailed reconstruction, and he offers substitution by Whitehall, swollen and winded by a mass of local intricacy that it is quite unsuited to digest.

When Parliament receives the measure it should grant a selective power of rate capping, provided the criteria are objectively defined; for things have got so bad that many ratepayers now have a right to that protection. It should refuse to grant general reserve powers if they are sought. There is no necessity for them. They are a lazy substitute for the rehabilitation of local government proper.

To your idea that the post of secretary general can be "definitely protected" by its holder "through the exercise of judicious patronage", anybody familiar with the procedure by which a secretary general is (or is not) reappointed knows that to be ridiculous. The truth of the matter is that while not every Commonwealth government approves of everything the present Secretary General says or does, all recognize that a large majority do approve of the general way he tackles the job and wish him to continue doing it.

You also assert that "there is no real evidence of proper accountability".

A 1981 review group - external to the secretariat - advised upon the secretariat's objectives and priorities for the 1980s. This was followed by a review, again external, of the secretariat's management structure and establishment. The recommendations went to and were approved by a meeting of senior Commonwealth officials.

For their financial management, both the secretariat (1983-84 Budget £5.6m; British contribution, £1.4m) and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (1983-84 Budget, £19.5m; British contribution, £5.5m) are fully accountable to bodies which meet regularly and are composed of representatives appointed by Commonwealth governments. All accounts are audited by the UK Exchequer and Audit Department.

The secretariat is a bureaucracy certainly, albeit a small one, and doubtless no bureaucracy is perfect. Its staff, drawn from some thirty Commonwealth countries, seek no more than to be judged by their collective performance.

On that score, the "real evidence" is that member governments are generally well satisfied, and indeed recognize that the Commonwealth association is fortunate to be served by a number of men and women of outstanding talent and dedication. I am, etc.

MIKE FABER, Director, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, Sussex.

December 7.

The consumer case

From the Chairman of the Electricity Consumers' Council

Sir, May I comment on Mr Alex Henney's statement about this council in his letter in today's *Times* (December 14)?

Mr Henney's account of our meetings would probably have been more accurate if he had been present for all of the discussions he refers to. He mentioned, for example, that the ECC (Electricity Consumers' Council) is declining to press the CEBG in a forthright manner for information to which it is legally entitled. In fact, Mr Henney left our meeting before the discussion on this question had been completed and even before the

vote on a resolution he had put before the council had been taken.

While the council did not vote in favour of Mr Henney's particular formula, it will be pressing the industry for greater disclosure of information. The whole purpose of our discussion was to decide how best to press our case.

It is also misleading to state, as he does, that this council is more concerned to get on with the industry than to get on with its job. The ECC is currently raising a whole series of criticisms of the CEBG's case for Sizewell B through the Sizewell public inquiry and is pressing the industry on its policies on standing charges, on security deposits and on shops and showrooms.

The ECC has also been in the forefront of the argument that an increase in the price of electricity is not necessary at the present time. Pressing the consumer case on these issues is our prime concern.

However, in the case of our work on electricity prices, the industry

also appears keen to resist pressures

for a price increase at the present time. Getting on with the industry

on this issue, would have meant

stable electricity prices for a period of over two and a half years, had it

not been for Government intervention.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL BARNES, Chairman, Electricity Consumers' Council, 28 High St, 06600 Antunes, France.

December 12.

The consumer case

From Dr J. M. Lewis

Sir, Your leader (December 5) is mistaken in claiming that "at its conference last year CND decided not to advocate Britain's departure from Nato". CND is committed by its own constitution (section A) to "the unilateral abandonment by Britain of... nuclear alliances", and the only point at issue is one of tactics - namely, how prominently to proclaim this neutralist commitment at any given time.

At the November, 1982, CND conference militantly anti-Nato delegates succeeded in defeating a CND leadership attempt to water down a resolution calling for much greater emphasis on withdrawal from the Atlantic Alliance. With the general election looming, however, the CND leaders chose to ignore the conference decision and to sweep

the question of neutrality under the carpet.

You are quite correct, however, to challenge CND claims of non-partisanship. Last year's political complexion of what you term to be "clearly a left-wing front" was mild compared to the new team of 26 officers and national council members just elected at Sheffield.

Of the 20 whose political affiliations are known to this organisation, every one is a committed socialist, communist or Labour Party member. This includes all six national officers, two of whom have been involved in one or more of the following recognised Soviet-front organisations within the recent past: the British Peace Assembly, the World Federation of Scientific Workers and the World Peace Council, all of which formerly graced the Labour Party's list of proscribed organisations until it was abolished with dire consequences in 1973.

The differences between this accurate analysis and the "witch hunt" it will undoubtedly be denounced as that witches were non-existent entities whereas leftist activists in key "peace" movement positions are regrettably all too real.

Yours faithfully,

JULIAN LEWIS, Research Director, The Coalition for Peace through Security.

27/31 Whitehall, SW1.

December 13.

CHARITABLE GIVING AND TAKING

New figures from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations show a noteworthy increase in the subventions from central government to voluntary and charitable bodies in the four years since Mrs Thatcher took office. Large sums are also paid by the Manpower Services Commission, the Housing Corporation and by local government; taken together, the state has come to underwrite a large proportion of the work of the voluntary sector. The dependence of ostensibly private social service on public benefit invites closer inspection than the voluntary movement has yet received from either public or Parliament.

The rate of growth of grant-giving by certain ministries - Urban Programme grants from the Department of the Environment have increased in value by nearly 300 per cent in four years - has been too rapid to allow anything but the most cursory assessment of value for the public money spent. Some departments have favourites; money undoubtedly goes to charitable bodies with an avowedly political intent (such as the Child Poverty Action Group) and to organizations at cross-purposes with the government's social policy. Of course, such pluralism is a welcome index of political maturity; but there is also a case for pruning the ever-lengthening list of interest groups knocking, apparently successfully, on Whitehall doors.

More worrying is the fact that public money is dispersed not only to the worthy charities devoted to the care of the elderly, children, and the handi-

public money and concessions by the state on tax revenue. Charities enjoy tax and rating privileges; givers get some relief.

Four years ago there was ambitious talk by ministers about the voluntary sector being stimulated in order to cover the withdrawal of the state from expensive areas of social service. In fact, the welfare state has since, hardly shrunk. The hefty increase in state support for voluntary bodies has underpinned their taking on new, additional social work. All around, expectations have yet to be diminished. But the case for reform of the welfare state must rest on its own merits: to introduce the voluntary sector as some kind of safety net is to misunderstand its nature.

Meanwhile, the British give money gifts to charity on a scale far surpassing Continental Europeans or other Westerners, save only the Americans, who are more generous, individually and corporately. The British give, too, to all manner of useful organizations, which include both the blessed ladies of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and the - less tweedy perhaps - women who help run play groups in inner city areas; both the heroes of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and unknown numbers who give up a few hours to visit the elderly.

In this mixed economy of the voluntary sector, there is a considerable role for public money to prime pumps, get groups started, provide secretarial assistance, ensure continuity in a group's life. It would be naive to imagine voluntary action could ever be entirely private, however admirable are those examples, such as the hospice movement, of initiatives in social service completely independent of the state. There is, of course, an important distinction between grants of

money to prime pumps, get groups started, provide secretarial assistance, ensure continuity in a group's life. It would be naive to imagine voluntary action could ever be entirely private, however admirable are those examples, such as the hospice movement, of initiatives in social service completely independent of the state. There is, of course, an important distinction between grants of

from it infer the intention with which the goods were removed.

If a clear intention to steal is inferred the charge is held to be proved; if the intention is unclear, the charge is dismissed. How else can justice be done between accuser and accused? Where better than in the courts to see it done? Ms Stern does not suggest an answer to these questions.

Yours etc,

DONALD ELLISON, 27 Wheatsheaf Wharf, Wheatsheaf Lane, SW6. December 12.

Threat in El Salvador

From Mr Jack Shapiro

Sir, Mr Alfred Sherman's letter (December 12) detailing his experiences in El Salvador does not include the points made by your own correspondent today. It may be true that the people of El Salvador

are not "to be ruled by Communists" but they certainly do not want the present situation in which your correspondent reports

"that up to 40,000 civilians have been killed by the security forces and by death squads in the past four years".

US Vice-President Bush is perhaps a more reliable observer and his comments, notably absent from Sir Alfred Sherman's letter, indicate that even the Reagan Government are not happy with the El Salvador Government's brand of democracy.

The virulent confrontation of every situation in the context that

whatever is anti-communist must be good for the democracies is a particularly pernicious doctrine that even Mrs Thatcher appears unable to swallow.

Yours faithfully,

JACK SHAPIRO, 100 Bram Hill, N2.

December 12.

CND's political bias

From Dr J. M. Lewis

Sir, Your leader (December 5) is mistaken in claiming that "at its conference last year CND decided not to advocate Britain's departure from Nato". CND is committed by its own constitution (section A) to "the unilateral abandonment by Britain of... nuclear alliances", and the only point at issue is one of tactics - namely, how prominently to proclaim this neutralist commitment at any given time.

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Yours faithfully,

JULIAN LEWIS, Research Director,

The Coalition for Peace through

Security,

27/31 Whitehall, SW1.

December 13.

Disposal of rail archive

From Dr P. W. Lewis

Sir, What principles determine the

continuing disposal of our national

railway archive by British Railways

Board (BRB)?

Despite the recent publication

of *The Railway Heritage of Britain*, which might be taken to

indicate that the board has changed

</div



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 16: By command of The Queen, the Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the arrival of The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and welcomed His Majesty on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 16: The Prince of Wales will attend a ball in aid of the National Society for Cancer Relief at the Harrogate International Conference Centre on February 3.

The Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, will dine with fellows of the Society at Boodle's on February 17.

His Royal Highness later received His Excellency the Hon S. Joyal (Secretary of State, Canada).

Mr. J. Byron

Mr. J. S. Buck and Miss E. A. Buckland

The engagement is announced between Julian, second son of Mr. M. Bath of Avon Wood, Swy, Lympstone, Hampshire, and Mrs. Jeffrey Buck and Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Buckland, of Widden Close, Boldre, Lympstone, Hampshire.

Mr. S. J. Dyer

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Byson, of Parkstone, Dorset, and Sarah Jane, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Dyer, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr. J. J. Carter

Mr. D. R. E. Carter and Miss F. J. Jurriaanse

The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Carter, of Matfield, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jurriaanse, of Fordcombe, Tunbridge Wells, and Mrs. J. Surdiance of Benenden.

Mr. A. V. Conway and Miss M. L. Jeronimus

The engagement is announced between Ashley Vaughan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Conway, of Germans Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Martine Louise, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Jeronimus, of East Horsey, Surrey.

Mr. G. B. Field and Miss H. M. Ross

The engagement is announced between Gareth Barrie, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Field, of Cardigan, and Heather Mary, only daughter of Captain and Mrs. M. J. Ross of the Wirral, Merseyside.

Mr. M. A. N. Fensom and Miss B. L. Atabong

The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Chief J. N. Fensom and Mrs. Fensom, of Bata Road, Kumba, Cameroon, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr. F. W. Atabong and Mrs. D. Atabong, of Mutengene, Limbe, Cameroon.

Mr. F. W. Atabong and Mrs. D. Atabong

12, 13
Travel: For Ever England
in California and aloha
Hawaii, Italian skiing,
Wiltshire style; Drink;
Collecting: Wax works

14
Values: Presents with
a future, decorations to
make the table a treat;
In the Garden: Times
project progress report

THE TIMES

Saturday

15
Review: Video cassettes;
Theatre: Tommy Trinder is
back in Aladdin; Preview:
Critics' Choice of Theatre,
Galleries and Dance

17, 18
Preview: Films, Music,
Films on TV and Opera;
Prize concise crossword;
Chess; Bridge; Family Life;
and The Week Ahead

17-23 DECEMBER 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Tripping the night fantastic

Photographs by Laurie Sparham



Who cares about the depression? Not the hedonistic youngsters who are flocking to the new kind of big city nightclubs. Max Bell gets caught in the rush

Swinging London is back. The opening last month of the Hippodrome, a £3m pleasure palace, and the seasonal exigencies have reinforced the belief that the recession can be forgotten. There is a new desire to see and be seen in the brash and expensive hedonistic havens of the city's night life.

The New Romantic movement, which has now been assimilated into high fashion, is one reason for the recent proliferation of clubs. The modern obsession with style and individual dress has generated the need for new places where people can congregate and study each other.

This desire to parade finds many parallels with the 1920s when an economic slump was offset by a hellbent determination to step out and shine, to ad-lib. The club scene flourished in the 1960s, but then the music was paramount and tastes were more orthodox. Now they are far more heterogeneous. There is a club to suit every preference: from African to 1940s jump and jive, from smart punk to leather fetishism.

Similarly, while the record charts now form the domain of the new breed of teenyboppers, older teenagers and young adults feel less inclined to take it all too seriously.

The arrival of the American-style cocktail bar has given British youth the ideal environment in which to celebrate its new-found sense of style and ready money. Live music halls or pubs seem dreary by comparison and today's youth has no intention of adhering to former Prime Minister James Callaghan's injunction to be in bed by 11 o'clock. The clubs, with their late licensing hours, are the natural places in which to flout the depression.

"To be an Englishman is to belong to the most exclusive club there is," wrote Ogden Nash. The Camden Palace in London NW1 may not be the most exclusive club in the world, but it has been voted the best in Europe by those who know, and the proof lies in the thousands of addicts of London night life who pass through its

heavily guarded doors six nights a week. They come to Slum It In Style on Tuesdays or luxuriate in Helden on Thursdays. For a few hours metro-politan youth can assume an heroic status, rub shoulders with the stars and indulge in a glittering noisy fantasy.

The Palace is impressive. Formerly the prosaic Music Machine, it was converted for £1m by Messrs Frederick and Henry, two Coventry business men. They added lasers, a barrage of lights, the throbbing dance floor and the inflated circus figures that hang from the ceiling. The effect is futuristic meets art deco.

They also added Steve Strange and his partner Rusty Egan. Strange is London's most notorious socialite, a Welsh emigre, aged 24, who presides as Palace host, entertaining his florid guests in the cocktail bar like a New Wave Beau Brummell or John Wilkes.

He and Egan anticipated the 1980s club boom with a succession of smaller ventures, Billies, Club for Heroes, Hell and Blitz, watering holes for the New Romantic movement which spawned the designers Sue Clowes and Stephen Linnard and pop stars Spandau Ballet and Boy George.

It has been said that once a trend is identified it is over, but the Palace seems to be doing well. At a recent Helden the place was packed for the visit of Divine, an outrageous New York transvestite. On the fourth tier of this vast edifice Bob Bates, the Doncaster-born bar manager, nods good evening to one of the visions of beauty that flock here. This is Dave, aged 19, from Birmingham, his hair arranged like a Spanish galleon under full sail. In his silleted wake - "more comfortable than Hush Puppies, mate" - come four more of Ziggy Stardust's children, the glamour kings, David Singh, Trojan, Leigh Bowery and Peter Hammond. Their five-inch platform boots, luxur tights, pancake make-up and plait draw the immediate interest of an Italian film crew, here like everyone else to participate in the clubland phenomenon.

Strange holds forth at the bar. It is well past midnight but the place is not yet full; anyone who is anyone arrives late and stays until 3am. An evening at the Palace can be expensive. Admission is £4 and it is not much fun nursing one lager all night. It is, after all, extremely hot. Strange knows that the poorer visitors smuggle in drink, but he still wonders where on earth they get the money from.

Tracey and Pete, 21-year-olds from Dartford, had come to the West End because they saw the Hippodrome on television.

Patsy and Delia, both aged 18, arrive at 10pm and intend to stay until the end. They like the pina coladas cocktails and will spend about £30 each before taking a taxi all the way home to Biggin Hill in Kent. "People are fed up with being depressed," Strange says. "These kids have got the latest clothes. I don't know how they can be

They'd tried the Beat Route and Gossips and the Empire but wouldn't go to the Palace. Not an army of young men with elaborate brushes scurried about sweeping up imaginary ash into brass receptacles.

Tracey wasn't sure if this was her scene either and Pete was shocked at the admission price, but if it had been £20 he would have paid. Too embarrassing to not and anyway the club was exclusive, they didn't let in any riff-raff. This was flash, with those lasers. And those sofas! You sank back a foot in those! Seen the lavatories! Hair spray, cologne, the lot! What an experience! Out of this world!

It struck me that the Hippodrome was deliberately ostentatious, an extension of its owner's ego, like his other club Stringfellow's. On the hydraulic dance floor the Hot Gossip dance troupe went through their sex routine while a DJ jolted the hordes along like a holiday camp redcoat. Around the club

Happiness at the Hippodrome: Late-night revellers include the 'Gruessome Threesome', Guards men Tony, Merv and Mal (top)

and an army of young men with elaborate brushes scurried about sweeping up imaginary ash into brass receptacles.

Three of the Hippodrome's more unusual guests introduced themselves as the 'Gruessome Threesome', Tony, Merv and Mal from Liverpool and Stoke-on-Trent, currently residing in Knightsbridge as squaddies in Her Majesty's Horse Guards, the Blues and Royals. They liked the Hippodrome, it was for the in-crowd. Did it matter if they were gay?

Ian Levine the DJ, was pleased. The success of the night, a dance routine recorded for posterity by film director Ken Russell, indicated the club's position as style leader even among the straight clubs. Both the Palace and the Hippodrome have started gay evenings.

Like so many other recent artistic and social innovations the new "hip" generation of young nightclubs had its origin on the gay fringe. The need to form a peacock parade of bright colours and outrageous social display in public stemmed directly from the lifting of legal and social restrictions on the gay com-

munity. It was out of the closet and into the eyes of the world.

One club which perhaps sparked off this wave of narcissistic yet proselytizing display was Heaven, the gay club situated underneath the arches near Charing Cross.

It was packed on the night I visited and the customers were paying rapt attention to the various acts on show.

lan Levine the DJ, was pleased. The success of the night, a dance routine recorded for posterity by film director Ken Russell, indicated the club's position as style leader even among the straight clubs. Both the Palace and the Hippodrome have started gay evenings.

Outside London the recession has given all the clubs a different atmosphere. Manchester's Hacienda, Liverpool's State, Glasgow's Henry Africas and Nottingham's Rock City are excellent, but they cannot afford London's elitism. Drinks and admission are usually half the prices charged in the capital. Inside the people seem friendlier; there are fewer poseurs, the dress is less self-conscious.

Derby's Blue Note illustrates this. A club with a capacity of 400, run by Phil Long, has been attracting custom from all over the Midlands for four years. It has videos, lights bars and food, but it also has conversation. The clientele is young, mostly female and buys very few cocktails. Dawn and Kathy, aged 18, and both at college, have travelled 15 miles to get here. They have been to London only twice and never to a club. They like the music because it's not too obscure. To them it is more like a party than a club.

Melanie and Rachel, aged 20, are not trend cocktail bar people though they might celebrate the end of their Government Training Scheme week with a Malibu cocktail. They resent the places like 42nd Street, where customers pretend to wear designer clothes. Those clubs want nice people but Derby isn't full of nice people. And being choosy costs you custom. The Blue Note started off with a door policy, but after two weeks it was empty, so now it lets anyone in.

Back in London the smarter clubs were arranging their Christmas events. The Palace is offering special menus ranging from £8.50 to £14.50 a head, a Blondie Only party and a New Year's Eve Masked Ball.

At the Hippodrome, Stringfellow is hosting a Variety Club

regulars. It is like Christmas every day.

At Heaven David Inches promised: "There'll be lots and lots of snow, £500 worth."

But the hippiest new club in London, the Circus, has no special seasonal plans. Under Jeremias Hayes it is a moving irregular event that has opened from warehouses, established clubs and the Scottish Regimental Drill Hall opposite

Buckingham Palace — the ultimate coup de theatre. The Circus may soon be symptomatic of a new breed of cheaper club with £1 admission and £1 drinks.

Dr Johnson's well-known aphorism "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford" is still true. For those who can afford it.

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Coaster would be all at sea without it.

No.8 COASTER

1 part Club Soda
2 dashes ANGOSTURA
Acid ice and stir



ANGOSTURA aromatic bitters
Put a dash in your cocktails tonight.



Clubbers: Hests Peter Stringfellow (left) and Steve Strange

THE HIPPODROME, corner of Charing Cross Road and Cranbourn Street, London WC2 (0171 4311). Doors open 8pm-3am. Licensed until 2am. Food in the Belmont Restaurant, approximately £10 a head. House wine £2.50, champagne from £18, cocktails £3.50-£5, lager £1.25 a glass, spirits with mixers from £1.50. Club entry £2. Club entry from 5pm Wednesdays for £14.00 to £23.50 Saturdays. Some union card concessions, check with club for details. Live music, personal appearances, video, disco.

BLUE NOTE CLUB, 14a Saddler Gate, Derby (0332 42569). Doors open 8pm-2am. Fast food from £1 in the Diner. House wine £4.50, Red Stripe lager £1.10, spirits with mixer £1.05, cocktails from £2. Club entry £1.50-£2.50. Live music, special nights, videos.

THE HACIENDA, 11-13 Whitworth Street West, Manchester (061 236 5051). Doors open 8pm-2am. Food from £1, lager 80p, cocktails from £2. Club entry £1-£2.50. Live music, self-defence classes, video.

HEAVEN (including Cellar Bar), The Arches, Villiers Street, London WC2 (0171 5852). Doors open 8pm-2am. Food from £1, lager 80p, cocktails from £2. Club entry £1-£2.50. Live music, self-defence classes, video.

FOR
EVER
ENGLAND

To live in California is to inhabit a world of extremes. Michael Watkins gets to grips with the weird, appealing ways of the place where one day the kissing will have to stop.

Cable cars and stars in the land of lunacy

Jessica Mitford flew out of San Francisco the day I flew in. I don't think there was anything personal in it: a question of imperfect timing, that's all. As I was checking into Nob Hill, she was doing much the same thing in London.

Now I wasn't being coy about Nob Hill; it's the address of the Mark Hopkins Hotel, from where you can watch for steel in from the Pacific, obscuring Golden Gate Bridge in minutes.

Everybody's Favourite

City" is San Francisco's modest

claim, coined, I believe, by Alastair Cooke. The song-writer takes up the refrain: "someone

left his heart in San Francisco, where little cable cars climb

halfway to the stars. Someone

else left his heart at Alcatraz,

bleak and impregnable out there

in the bay; his name was Al

Capone. Usually you could hear

the grinding lurch of those cable

cars as they climbed vertiginously

from Powell and Market

Streets; but this time they were

stilled, the system being overhauled

for the first time in history - so everyone walked,

bleakly, rapturously, in this

breathless, rapturous city.

In my room, I spread out the

San Francisco Chronicle

Ernie's Restaurant on Mont-

gomery Street was still going

and Lauren Bacall was still

going too, starring in *Woman of*

the Year at the Golden Gate

Theater. Then I noticed that

Rosemary Clooney was opening

that evening, a supper show at

the Fairmont; and because, at

11, I was unrequitedly in love with Miss Clooney, I booked a

table.

Today Miss Clooney is a

grandmother, wholesome as a

wheatgerm loaf and she belted out "Come on-a My House",

and she caressed a foggy day in

London town and I loved her

all over again. I told her so. That was after the show, in her suite. "This is a civilized city", she told me. "More European than anywhere in the States; they care about food, clothes, style. They care about caring."

I don't know exactly what caring about caring means. It is one of those meaningless Americanisms like "meaningful", or "have a nice day". Everyone keeps telling you to have a nice day; even empty elevators are programmed to wish you a nice day.

Next morning I went for a walk through Ghirardelli Square to Fisherman's Wharf, where a girl, far too glamorous to be in the halie-lujah business, asked, "You wanna be saved, brother?"

There are lots of knoky girls in the Cannery. They are interested in yoga, vegetarianism, cytogenetics and they will all turn into little old ladies in tanned shoes. Yet they are tolerated, venerated even; for San Francisco is a most forgiving city: the blacks forgive the whites who forgive the gays who forgive the heterosexuals who forgive the Jews who forgive the gays. Bald is beautiful; and there are topless girls in bars watched glumly by men with topless minds. "Talk to a totally nude girl for \$1", I read on a sign; it seemed a friendly thing to do.

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Resisting supertasters, San Francisco is one of my favourite cities because it climbs hills while other cities spread out; it encourages its immigrants to retain their ethnic differences while other places assimilate them. It rejoices in a public transport system as archaic as Stephenson's Rocket. It bakes sourdough bread; and it is a launching pad projecting you towards Big Sur and a road south.

Monterey comes first, 120 miles from San Francisco; still a fishing town despite the gooney things that happened to它 a long time ago. I stayed the night there, eating clam chow-

der and abalone puffs at Rappa's on Old Fisherman's Wharf. The cabaret was terrific, a salty pride of sea-lions made cink-cink-barks at a pelican demonstrating that its beak could hold more than its belly can.

A storm had blocked the coastal road beyond Big Sur. So I made a labyrinthine detour, which took hours; but you can't hoard time at the expense of beauty - that would be like neglecting the Sistine Chapel because you had a bus to catch. You dare not take your eyes off this road, so perilous is it; yet you must. It is Cornwall through a magnifying glass, hugely cruel, elemental. It was shaped by a force more omnipotent even than William Randolph Hearst, who built a monument to himself, a shrine if you prefer, calling it La Cuesta Encantada, the Enchanted Hill - more brutally known as Heart Castle.

It is best to be anaesthetized

Hearst, they say, was the model for Citizen Kane, who had a dark dream and constructed a monumental folly of another kind. Ten years ago I met a guide at the San Simeon castle who had been in service in Hearst's time. Her name was Milly; she had a face of almost asperitic vacuity and was possessed of a steely-tempered devotion to her master, Mr Hearst, she told me, was adorable; and there her case rested.

I could have made San Simeon to Los Angeles city limits that night; it's only 150 miles or so; but you need to steady yourself against the cultural shock waves of LA. Exposing yourself too suddenly could lead to brain damage. So, like a penitent on the eve of revelation, I sought refuge at Morro Bay, savouring stiff ocean breezes and stiffer draughts of Jack Daniels. It is best to be numb, to be anaesthetized; for, if San Francisco welcomes you elegantly, Los Angeles greets you with a snarl, with trombones and a hundred treacherous explosives. LA survives through one cardinal rule: to be "with-it". Without it

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TRAVEL/2

Edited by Sheila Crawford Poole

Aloha, hula and goodbye to an Hawaiian odyssey

By 4.30am on the first day the jet lag had won. Unable to sleep, I wandered out onto the terrace of my hotel bedroom and gazed out on Waikiki Beach, that most famous of Pacific resorts. Sixteen floors below the waves rolled in endlessly; I had imagined the surf would be enormous and the noise thunderous, but apparently this was the wrong season. All around the lights of the massive hotel and condominium blocks winked conspiratorially. As I stood breathing in the light sub-tropical night air, I found it hard to believe I was halfway round the world in the middle of the world's biggest ocean.

The journey to Hawaii had been horrendous despite the comforts of the 747. London to San Francisco - 10 hours 45 minutes, three hour stopover; then five and a half hours San Francisco to Honolulu. Add transfers and it's 24 hours door-to-door. And then there's the 12-hour time loss.

Somehow, the islands confirm your worst fears and answer your wildest dreams. Waikiki on the island of Oahu is smart, rich and expensive. The beachside hotels stretch endlessly along a surprisingly narrow strip of sand. Behind the main beach road lies a series of multi-storey shopping precincts selling anything from Cartier jewelry to native carvings and fast food. It is the American dream transported thousands of sea miles to a group of 20 volcanic islands and atolls, once inhabited by Polynesians who did not know the meaning of sin until American missionaries told them what it was.

Right seeing begins on the beach. All around on that overexposed strip, enormous whale-like Americans lie recumbent on the sun casting a shadow over slender Japanese neighbours. Gorgeous blondes, male and female, natural and dyed, soak up the ultra-violet. Tanning is a serious business here; outside many of the hotels there are Tanning Information Centres where earnest bronzed youths discuss what cream or lotion to use and how many hours of sun to take on the first day. All shades of colour and race are there. Hawaii claims to be the world's most poly-cultural society.

Captain Cook sailed at that when he discovered the islands on January 18 1770. The carefree people, at from being terrified, extended the trilateral *aloha* (literally an affectionate greeting) and welcomed the sailors with open arms, soon becoming revered as a godsend to the group the Santocino Islands. A year later he got involved in a little local difficulty and lost his godlike status and his life in an extremely bloody scene or the beach near the now-famous Diamond Head.

East of exotic flora and fauna

The great captain left two legacies - trade links with the rest of the civilized world and syphilis, measles and other common ailments that reduced the islands' population from 300,000 in 1780 to 7000 by 1851. Forty years after Captain Cook life changed again. The kilted American missionaries arrived and made the islanders wear clothes, abandon their love of their religion and an ideas of keeping the islands to themselves. Wave after wave of different nationalities - Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Samoan, Korean, we subsequently contribute to the miscegenation of the Hawaiians.

Tearing myself away from gazing with instant awe in my heart at some of the rare exotic creatures on the beach turned to the other attractions of Oahu. Beaches, tepid sea, skin diving, exotic flowers, trees and the American military abounding. Pearl Harbor, home to the US Pacific Fleet and to USS Arizona Memorial, a moving tribute to the men killed on that infamous day when Japan

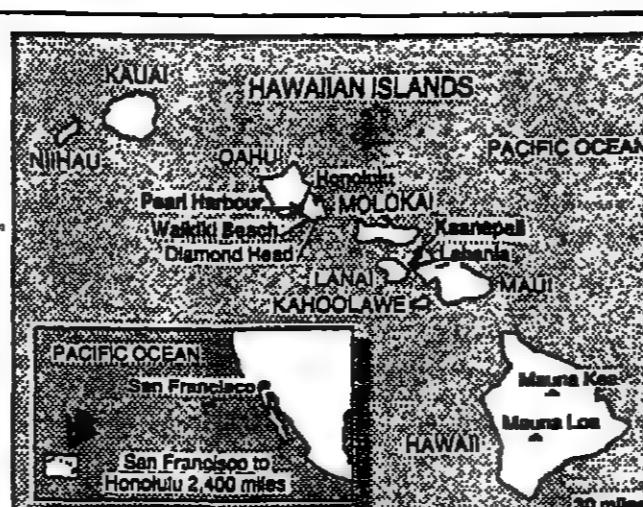
ers where earnest bronzed youths discuss what cream or lotion to use and how many hours of sun to take on the first day. All shades of colour and race are there. Hawaii claims to be the world's most poly-cultural society.

Three nights later I was not sorry to leave Oahu and head on to some of the other islands. Being American the inter-island air services are fast and efficient. Kauai, the garden island, has a far smaller population than Oahu (40,000 to 720,000) and despite the modern conveniences it begins to approach my idea of a Pacific island.

On again to Maui, second largest of the islands, created by two massive volcanoes providing spectacular scenery and beauty. I would like to come back here. The town of Lahaina, formerly the royal capital of Hawaii, has been restored and looks as it did 200 years ago when the whaling fleets of the world used it as a convenient and welcoming base. Clapboard houses line its main street, but the shops sell 25 varieties of burger or pizzas now.

The town is conveniently close to the very swish resort of Kaanapali. Luxurious beachside hotels which offer everything from art galleries to hairdressers to delicatessens and ice cream parlours have sprung up here in recent years. Enterprising architects have utilized the attractions of the jungly vegetation and built some of the lobbies around soaring palm trees, fragrant plumeria, frangipani, jacarandas and African tulip trees.

The food and drink in the hotels comes in two varieties - fast food and milk-shakes. American children of all ages love them, and French-American, familiar sounding, gourmet dishes which deceive the eye when served up as giant Texas steaks with a thick packet gravy on top. Steer clear of the French wines; like Europeans they



don't travel here well. The Californian produce, especially the Robert Mondavi wines, suit the atmosphere and ambience better.

The whole act is smart. The tourist is coddled and protected from the outside world. The climate never seems to vary, never gets cold and the shower works every time! An obvious parallel can be drawn with the Caribbean. The weather, beaches and climate are similar but the underlying tension that persists on so many Caribbean islands is absent here. You are not advised to visit the hotel grounds and you don't come across baton-wielding security men keeping the population at bay. Even the prices are not too dissimilar. Perhaps the only drawback is the over-riding American efficiency of it all.

Refreshed and restored after two days in Maui, I continued my odyssey. Another short flight this time to the big island itself, Hawaii. If Maui provides the relaxation, the big island provides the spectacle. It was formed by five volcanoes of which two, Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, are nearly 14,000ft high and still very active. They descend 18,000ft below the island to the seabed, making them the largest mountains on earth.

It is a curious feeling knowing this when landing on the island. With typical ingenuity and business acumen, the state has built a highway right up to the crater of Mauna Loa. The tourist buses stop outside a hotel and the Volcano Art

Center, a mere half a mile away from the massive crater. You can drive from the hotel, park and walk to within 12ft of the rim of the crater which is two miles across. One hundred and fifty feet down lies the hard-baked crust, the cork on top of a pipe of molten rock that stretches down to the earth's core. All around, sulphurous fumes leak from the hard black and grey lava rock. The air is still and fears of sudden Promethean upheaval prey on the minds of even the most blase travellers.

The guides assure you that the seismologists constantly monitor the turbulent forces which exist just a few hundred feet below the ground but for once your confidence in American know-how is strained.

Every time there is an eruption (the last one was on December 5) the road is covered by lava, so the engineers move in and build yet another bypass. Nothing must interrupt the flow of the tourist dollar.

After that peak the rest of the trip goes steadily downhill. Yes, the 2,000 varieties of the Hawaiian orchids are beautiful, and yes, it is the best pineapple you have ever tasted but the superlatives begin to pall.

Back to Oahu and the excesses of Waikiki Beach to spend the final night eating Japanese food cooked by Korean chefs washed down with American beer. It was, after all, a cosmopolitan journey.

Michael Crozier

Travel notes

Hotels: On Waikiki beach, all doubles, no meals included, 240-£100 a night. Other islands are cheaper, £25 and upwards; there are also guesthouses and simple log cabins which cost no more than £5 a night.

Food: From a 75p hamburger to a gourmet meal at £20 a head - including wine; prices roughly comparable to Inner London.

Climate: Sunny and warm with temperatures ranging from 75°F in winter to 90°F in summer. The humidity (60 to 70 per cent) is tempered by the near constant trade winds.

Excursions: Many and varied. Local phrase: "Hang loose" means keep calm and is used at the end of nearly any statement; *hole* - white man; *holoholo* - to visit; *imu* - underground ovens for roasting pigs in for a *laau* - an Hawaiian feast; *kahuna* - priest or doctor; *kamaaina* - member of long-standing island family; *kane* - a man; *kapu* - keep out; *lei* - garland of flowers; *maheo* - thank

Languedoc's legacy of little English pies

There are about 6,000 *Picenois*, as the inhabitants of Pézenas are called, and they are proud of their town. When Armand de Bourbon, Prince de Conti, lived there it was called the Versailles of Languedoc. That seems to be going rather far, though they did have a bright, young actor-manager there in those days, Molière. The courtyards of the gentlemen's houses in the Renaissance quarter make good open-air theatres.

The old part, going back to the Middle Ages, is almost unspoilt. The streets are too narrow for serious traffic, and one can spend a happy afternoon strolling around. A few arty-crafty shops have sprung up, open only in summer, but most of the tourists from Tokyo and Dusseldorf press on in their air-conditioned coaches to Carcassonne, that Disneyland of *Viollet-le-Duc*.

We spent the night in a four-poster bed and from our huge windows there were good English views next morning over manicured lawns and woodlands beyond. Coffee, the Sunday papers, breakfast and a five-mile hike set us up for an English lunch of which even Marc Decker, now released from his labours, approved.

There was no crime at Castle Combe that weekend, but I think we discovered its secret. The place, quite simply, has chairs the other way and watch the game of *tambourin*.

It is played on 100-long car-park, and is a sort of five-a-side tennis without a net. The rackets are like big tambourines without bells. The solid rubber ball makes a most satisfying clunk when a master-player sends it high into the air. In France the game is played only in a 25-mile radius of Pézenas, but some parts of Italy know it too, and every year there is an international match.

On the outskirts there are some agreeable châteaux. One of them, Loubatières, was the favourite hunting-lodge on Nixon de Lenox, the town's tourist leaflet can have the last word: "The taste of the *petits pâtés* will astound the gastronome".

Peter Brown

Getting there

The wines we drank were from the House of Doffi and Iron, of Alsace, and were shipped by J. B. Rymer, of London. Marc Decker is employed by Doffi and Iron. The Major House Hotel, one of the best Western group, lies between the M4 and the A420, six miles from Chippingham, a two and a half hour drive from London. A four-poster double bedroom is normally £28 a night, a single room £20, but winter breaks can be taken until April 1984, at £25 per person for a two-night stay, dinner included. Tel 0249 782200.

مكتبة من الأصل

COLLECTING

Wax works thrown into relief

Taste changes mysteriously from year to year, decade to decade and century to century. One of the most significant movements present is a steady upward swing in appreciation of sculpture. Paintings, drawings and prints are still far more expensive than their three-dimensional counterparts, but the gap is beginning to narrow, and the trend seems to be affecting prices across the range of three-dimensional art from Renaissance bronzes to Victorian bronzes, Rodin and Henry Moore.

One three-dimensional area which has so far been left almost entirely unnoticed by collectors is modelling in wax. A technique first used in ancient Egypt and popular in classical times, its flowering in Europe begins with the Renaissance. Genuine Renaissance models still pass through the sale rooms at around £400 to £700, although exceptional examples can go to around £4,000.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth century there was another great vogue for the medium, most especially for wax portraits in low or high relief. These are reminiscent of the silhouettes so popular at this period but are much more sophisticated and beautiful. They can be found at £20 to £700, although exceptional examples can go to around £4,000.

The guides assure you that the seismologists constantly monitor the turbulent forces which exist just a few hundred feet below the ground but for once your confidence in American know-how is strained.

Every time there is an eruption (the last one was on December 5) the road is covered by lava, so the engineers move in and build yet another bypass. Nothing must interrupt the flow of the tourist dollar.

After that peak the rest of the trip goes steadily downhill. Yes, the 2,000 varieties of the Hawaiian orchids are beautiful, and yes, it is the best pineapple you have ever tasted but the superlatives begin to pall.

Back to Oahu and the excesses of Waikiki Beach to spend the final night eating Japanese food cooked by Korean chefs washed down with American beer. It was, after all, a cosmopolitan journey.

Michael Crozier

Princess Charlotte framed by a red wax curtain it depicts the Prince Regent's daughter who would have been queen of England had she not died in childbirth in 1817. She is palpably lovely, with softly flushed wax cheeks and a tell-tale swelling at the waist of her green and gold wax dress, proving that the portrait was executed in 1817. A Percy was left unsold at Sotheby's last year at £280.

Percy is one of the top names of the period. Another is Isaac Gossel, who generally did head-and-neck wax. Both were prolific and can be bought quite easily. The same goes for Caspar Hardy, of Cologne, who was their contemporary and modelled little genre scenes as well as portraits.

The most abundantly available of the Renaissance models is Antonio Abondio (1539-1591), an expert portraitist who worked for the Emperor Maximilian. Another Italian whose works can be found quite easily is Gaetano Zumbo (1656-1701), who worked in Bologna and specialized in rather grisly anatomical and religious scenes.

Sadly, the popularity of wax at the turn of the century brought a good many fakes into existence, and it is wise to take advice before spending large sums. And don't hang them over the central heating because wax melts.

Geraldine Norman



Heading for popularity: Percy's Princess Charlotte; bust by Gossel; the Rev R. Aspland by Poole

DRINK

Potent Christmas survival kit

If you are filled with horror by the thought that this time next week you will be coping with a house full of over-excited children and difficult elderly relatives in addition to making the mince pie, stuffing the turkey and wrapping up those last-minute Christmas presents, take heart. The one way to make certain that the festive fortnight passes by in a blissful blur is to lay in sufficient stocks of the perfect Christmas survival kit - wine.

It may be too late by now to persuade your local wine merchant to deliver, but the choice at your nearest off-licence or supermarket will still be sufficiently wide to cope with all those taxing festivities.

Everyone uses Christmas as an excuse to drop by unannounced and the simplest method of entertaining them is to ensure that your fridge and sideboard are already well-stocked with bottles. A screw-top bottle of the peachy, honeyed Muscat de Beaumes de Venise (Sainsbury's £4.25) can be kept in the fridge throughout the holiday; a chilled glass served with mince pies either mid-morning or mid-afternoon always goes down well, especially with maiden aunts, the vicar and friends with sweet tooth.

For those with drier and more demanding tastes, a good bottle of any pungent, nutty, bone-dry Sercial such as Lameirino's Sercial is ideal (Russell & Meller, The Rectory, St Mary at Hill, London EC3, £6.85). This fortified wine can also stay in the fridge for days without coming to any harm.

If space in your fridge is at a premium, try one of these Christmas sideboard standbys. Gonzales Byass have an excellent old bottle sherry in their rich, sweet, old Oloroso - Matusalem - which is perfect with Christmas pudding or at tea-time with the cake if you are finding your relations especially hard work. (La Vignerolle, 105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7, £5.60). Cherry brandy is another old favourite that warms everyone up after church and also makes a good warming nogggin for carol singers and hunt-followers. (O'Donnell, £4.70).

On the big day itself the quickest way of making Christmas feel like Christmas is to start with champagne. Saintbury's flowery and full-bodied Dry Champagne (£5.95) came top in *The Times* recent champagne tasting and would make a splendid morning tipple. A cheap alternative would be to buy a bottle of Crème de Fraise de Bois (Cullens £3.95), pour a teaspoonful into the bottom of each glass and top it up with the cheapest, driest, sparkling wine that you can get at your off-licence. It produces a delicious pale pink sparkling wine with a bouquet of wild strawberries.

Relatives and friends always seem to turn up late on Christmas Day, so an aperitif that can double up as a first-course wine is a good idea. That tangy Lameirino Sercial would be ideal, for it is a perfect match for a soup or any other starter. If you would prefer not to lead off with a fortified wine or are starting with a delicate fish dish that you would be swamped by madeira, Marks & Spencer

have the answer - a glorious, rich, green, buttery '81 Chablis from Rémy le Fort, a bargain at just £3.99.

If you feel like going to the other extreme and splashing out on a superb wine that none of your guests will have ever tasted before then the intense, grassy, blackcurrant fruit of Tasmania's splendid '81 Moorilla Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is a worthwhile indulgence. (Les Amis du Vin, 7 Arden Way, Wood Lane, London W12, £12.55).

Christmas pudding served with brandy butter is another hopelessly difficult festive dish to match with wine: that old bottled sherry, Matusalem, could just about cope, as could Blandy's Ten Year Old Madeira with its rich, soft, raising charms. (Hedges & Butler, 153 Regent Street, London, SW1, £9.50).

Jane MacQuitty

Herbert Allen perfected the corkscrew by inventing Screwpull



Wine connoisseur and president of one of America's biggest engineering companies, he put his brilliant brain to improving the corkscrew. The result is acclaimed the world over and because it is patented, it cannot be copied. Broken, crumbled and 'awkward-to-pull' corks are now things of the past.

What the experts say -

"The Screwpull comes closer to infallibility than any other device for extracting corks."

TERRY ROBARD, NEW YORK TIMES

"Once you have used the Screwpull you will never use another corkscrew."

MICHAEL BROADBENT, CHRISTIES, LONDON

"Must be the best corkscrew invented this century"

DEREK COOPER, OBSERVER MAGAZINE

"What wine lovers have been waiting 300 years for"

PAUL MARKS, WINE TIDINGS, MONTREAL

"Absolutely idiot proof!"

WILLIAM HALL, FINANCIAL TIMES

SCREWpull

AT £7.95 A GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS
FROM SELECTED BRANCHES

VALUES/Beryl Downing on gifts with lasting value

Investment in a present with a future

The cost of giving often has nothing whatever to do with the price. Some of the least expensive and most enchanting presents are the result of hours of consideration which cost a good deal more than mere cash. But while running over your own gifts with a geiger counter and a pocket calculator is not recommended by the best etiquette books, there is no reason, if you are choosing a present for someone else, why you should not make sure that it is of lasting value. So here is a selection of presents that could well have an investment value - possibly in terms of money and certainly in terms of pleasure.

Wisdom of choosing pearls

In the past 13 years pearls have increased in value more than diamonds, according to Mikimoto, the originators of the cultured pearl. A strand which cost £25 in 1970 would cost £200 today and Mikimoto can show you every size in every colour. Always try pearls against your skin before buying: you may think you want white, but pearls (for blondes) or gold (for brunettes) may look much better.

The latest idea is to match necklaces with watch bracelets in pearl and turquoise or pearl and coral (from about £400). For those who already have pearl necklaces, detachable droppers are available from £40. Jewellers who stock Mikimoto will tailor-make to order. For local stockists contact Mikimoto Pearls, 20-24 Kirby Street, Hatton Garden, London EC2 (01-831 8518).

It is almost impossible to tell cultured pearls from natural pearls without an X-ray, but you can tell beads from cultured pearls by their comparative lack of lustre. Or rub them across the edge of your teeth: cultured pearls will feel textured, fake ones quite smooth. The qualities to look for are lustre, colour, size and shape, which should all be well matched in the same necklace.

Investing in modern jewelry means selecting a highly individual style that has more to

offer than passing fashion. A designer with a most distinctive style is Elizabeth Gage, whose charming cottage studio at the back of 25 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (01-589 2706) provides a delightful un-shop-like ambience in which to discuss settings for stones you already have, or to choose something entirely new.

Elizabeth Gage believes in going straight to the top - her first collection after training as a goldsmith was for Cartier in 1964. She loves opulent and dramatic jewelry and is strongly influenced by Viking and Byzantine styles - the many-stranded choker illustrated can be made in pearls, amethysts, sodalite (like lapis lazuli), garnets, cornelians, coral or particularly effectively, in black onyx and white bone. Rings are her forte - big and bold with unusual stones - and she also loves enamelling: a range of zodiac rings is enamelled in brilliant colours with the symbols in 18-carat gold (about £673).

The magnificent bracelet illustrated is her own - something similar could be commissioned, but Elizabeth Gage prefers making one of a kind and, apart from the smaller pieces, will never make more than about nine of anything - each piece numbered, documented and signed.

Textiles full of Eastern promise

Since the price of genuine Persian rug has become prohibitive, collectors are looking at other oriental textiles and particularly at the collections shown by Joss Graham at 10 Eccleston Street, London SW1. He has been travelling India and the Far East for 12 years to indulge his passion for textiles.

Prices for hangings are from £60 to £900, but there are also small items, scarves, purses, etc, from £4.

A picture of abstraction

I first saw Judy Sale's pictures at John Cullen's lighting studio at 10 Woodfall Court, Smith Street, London SW3 (01-748 8850), on until January 14, includes watercolours and oils of the large, swirling abstract oils with a feeling of sky or sea or sand made an immediate impact, and when I met her it was a pleasure to find that she is also an extremely efficient businesswoman. "So many people think they are going to be discovered and they ain't, so one needs to be professional in every way", she says. Having spent some time as an interior designer she is always inspired by colour and likes to create

the New Grafton Gallery, 49 Church Road, Barnes (01-748 8850), on until January 14, includes watercolours and oils by established and lesser-known artists at prices from £50 to £1,000 - notable names are Sir Hugh Casson, Bernard Dunstan, Sickert, Ruskin Spear, Gilbert Spencer and Carel Weight.

Alternatively you could visit Graffiti's fourth exhibition of miniature prints, including original works by 50 artists from Britain, Europe, Japan, North America and the Middle East. The prints range from

£50 to £1,000 - notable names are Sir Hugh Casson, Bernard Dunstan, Sickert, Ruskin Spear, Gilbert Spencer and Carel Weight.

Mathew Warwick's boxes are already collector's pieces. Particularly ingenious is the one shown below (left), made in applewood in the shape of an apple. It has a removable stalk containing a miniature jigsaw of an apple tree, with one "missing" apple-shaped piece hidden in a tiny secret compartment (£92). Above are two of his flower-shaped boxes in African blackwood. The sunflower on

the left costs £195. The convolvulus (third from left) has a moonstone "dewdrop" and contains a silver thimble (£225).

Modern glass is one of the most exciting and rapidly developing crafts and connoisseurs will be glad to know that one of the best glass galleries in the country, Colebridge of Highgate, has opened a central London gallery at 192 Piccadilly, W1.

The work of about 50 glassblowers is on show - the widest selection of contemporary British glass anywhere in the world - and it includes every glass-forming technique. Prices of collectable names are from £50 but you can find attractive pieces from as little as £5.

Shown above (right) is a vase by William Walker (£7.50). Pauline Solven's rocking globe, "Arezzo Light" (below right) is

£345.

The plumes of pampas grass flowers are a joy from autumn into early winter and these will reach 6ft or more. *Coreopsis argentea* Samindale Silver is the form I prefer. A daphne which will fit into these shrubs is the form *D. odora* variegata, sometimes called *D. m. m. m.*. The leaves have marcas of white and the flowers, though not as plentiful as marcas, are delightful.

Colour can be supplied by the hardy fuchsias, Mrs Popple or *Riccia*. These are tried and tested, but there are many

others equally as good. Hydrangeas are good summer shrubs, producing in masses of flowers once established and growing well. *Hibiscus syriacus* is the hardy hibiscus and well worth a spot in any garden.

Poncirus trifoliata, the Japanese Bitter Orange, produces small orange-like fruits in the autumn. Sweetly scented white flowers precede the fruits. This plant will need protection from cold winds and, as it is spiny, should be planted one row back from the front of the border.

Viburnums flower well and many of the plants are sweetly scented. *Viburnum x Carlesii* is about 6ft high, quite vigorous and has masses of white, scented flowers in the late spring. *V. Carlesii* is smaller and I often consider this one of the best of all scented shrubs. It has white flowers in the spring on a bush which is not over vigorous.

I would also recommend the Beauty Bush, *Kolkwitzia amabilis*, which has beautifully formed pale pink flowers on a bush which can be up to 6ft high.

Back to roses, for garden decoration I prefer the floribundas and these are many and varied. Choosing colours is bound to be a matter for personal taste, but a few to consider would be: Eye Paint, which has single scarlet flowers with a white eye; Trumpeter, with orange-scarlet flowers; Dearest, which is a beautiful shade of pink; Korresia, in my opinion the best yellow; Arthur Bell, which opens yellow but pales to cream with age; and Leberg, and Ida, two good whites.

Once planting has been completed, it will be necessary to fork over the ground and make sure the plants are all secure. A mulch of organic material will then be desirable to help retain moisture in the ground and keep down competition from weeds.

Ashley Stephenson

IN THE GARDEN

Beauty bush and eye paint on the side

The Times Garden Project in Fulham, west London, enters its fifth month with the selection of some colour border shrubs and suitable roses

Most of the planting in the back border has been done, and is now a question of completing the twigs shrubs. It is in these beds that colour and variety can be introduced. The owner has requested some roses, so I intend to add these to the front of one of the borders so that the colour can be appreciated from the terrace or from the grass. None of the plants used here need be very tall, and the hut will be covered with the viburnum and other plants on this side will provide a screen to help.

Berberis julianae is evergreen and the leaves turn red in the autumn. It is about 6ft high when mature. *Berberis verruculosa* is another beauty, about 4ft tall, scented flowers in the late spring. *V. Carlesii* is smaller and I often consider this one of the best of all scented shrubs. It has white flowers in the spring on a bush which is not over vigorous.

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Ashley Stephenson

IN THE GARDEN

Caroling cats: Miniature etching 'The First Noel' by Maggie Burley from Graffiti £18.40 plus 50p p & p

paintings specifically for the surroundings in which they will be hung.

Already popular in Canada and America, she has only had one exhibition in this country. When she becomes better known, prices, which now range from £300 to £1,000, are bound to rise, so this is a very good time to consider her work. Private viewings can be arranged by appointment at The Old School House, Crown Lane, Ludgershall, Andover, Hampshire SP11 9RU (0264 790860);

Charlotte Campbell-Davies is so incensed at the outrageous prices charged for prints of no investment value at all that she has started to sell original paintings from her own house at 42 Jubilee Place, London SW3 (01-552 1203). She has about 120 watercolours, oils, and drawings from £15 to £350, framed. The great advantage of this setting is that you can see how the pictures look in a home, rather than in the unadorned surroundings of a gallery and the collection is sufficiently varied for everyone to find something to their taste.

The results are impressive. The prints are in remarkably good condition and prices at the lower end are no more than modern reproductions, £20-665, with a few items over £1,000.

They include the dramatic and colourful actor and warrior prints by Yoshitora, Toyokuni II and Kunichika and the work of the most famous Japanese landscape artists of the 19th century, Hokusai and Hiroshige.

There is a finite number of such prints, so in a few years they will be even more difficult to find. In the meantime the Japanese Print Shop is at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (01-734 1234), or you can find Peter Barkes at 38 Petergate, York (0904 51080).

Discerning buyers don't necessarily have to spend a great deal in order to get a good investment. An exhibition at postage-stamps to postcard size, prices from £5 to £30. Frames available on the spot. The

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Entertainments

What's new on the GLC South Bank?

GLC South Bank Concert Hall, Belvedere Road, London SE1 5BX. Tel: 01-928 3191. Information: 01-728 3002.

BOX OFFICE opening hours: Monday to Saturday 10 am to 9 pm. Sundays 1.30 to 9 pm.

CREDIT CARDS 01-728 6544.

GROUP TICKETS available for most Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Hall performances; details in monthly diary 'Music on the South Bank' or ring 01-728 3002.

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Purcell Room

Saturday
17 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Sunday
18 Dec. 2.45 pm.
Tuesday
19 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Wednesday
20 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Thursday
21 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Friday
22 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Saturday
23 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Sunday
24 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Monday
25 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Tuesday
26 Dec. 7.30 pm.
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28 Dec. 7.30 pm.
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29 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Saturday
30 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Sunday
31 Dec. 7.30 pm.
Monday
1 Jan. 7.30 pm.
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12 Jan. 7.30 pm.
Saturday
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Entertainments

John Piper
30 November-22 January

Piper is perhaps best known for his romantic landscape painting, but his work in stained glass, ceramics, fabrics and theatre design, now shown together for the first time, fully demonstrates his versatility.

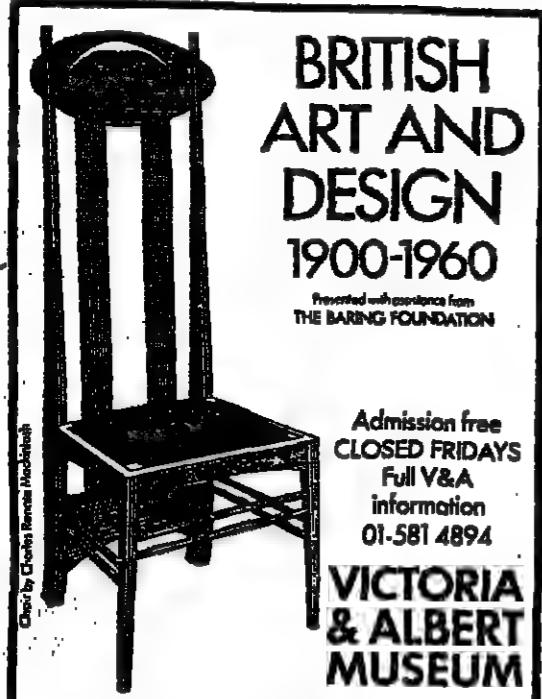
Sponsored by Mobil

Admission £1.50 Wednesdays 10-1.30 Sundays 2-3.30

Recorded information 01-8217128 Closed 23-26 December and 1 January

Tate Gallery

Millbank London SW1



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LEASE NOTWITHSTANDING, HILL, 224, GOSBURY,
127, 0750, Judy Garland, Mrs.
Mason in A STAR IS BORN (1954).
LAWRENCE, 21, 0712, Max Maxi.
MAX 2118, Max Maxi.

CINEMAS

STATE MOTEL, HILL, 224, GOSBURY,
127, 0750, Judy Garland, Mrs.
Mason in A STAR IS BORN (1954).
LAWRENCE, 21, 0712, Max Maxi.
MAX 2118, Max Maxi.

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PRIDEAR, HILL, 2nd fl. 2nd fl. 2nd fl.
1900 sq ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 2
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5-10 years. Mrs. M. Mrs. J. Mrs. J.
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THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

CAROLS: The Royal Choral Society under Meredith Davies leads the singing in the traditional family carol concerts today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and on Mon at 7.30pm, tickets £1.25-£7. On Tues there is a Victorian Christmas celebration, with Prunella Scales as Queen Victoria and Robert Hardy as Prince Albert, at 7.30pm, £1.25-£7. Julian Lloyd-Webber, Roger Whittaker and the Goldsmiths Choral Union sing carols in aid of the Save the Children Fund, attended by Princess Anne, on Wed at 7pm, tickets £1-£10. And the New National Youth Choir give a Christmas concert on Thurs at 7.30pm, tickets £1.50-£5. Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (089 8212).

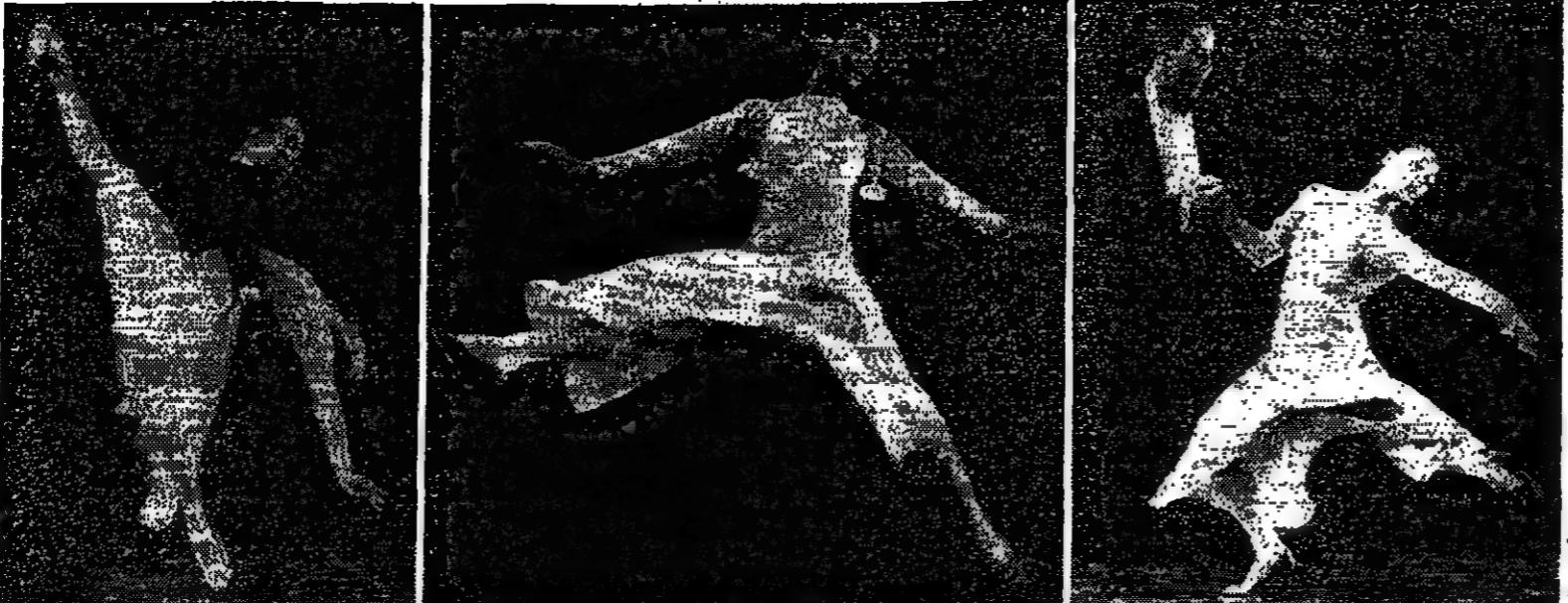
SOUTH BANK CAROLS: The Massed Choirs of the London Hospitals are joined by the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Corps of Signals in two concerts today in the Royal Festival Hall, at 3pm and 7.30pm, tickets £2-£5.50, while the City of London Choir and Farnby Brass Ensemble lead carols in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45pm, tickets £2-£4.50. Tomorrow's concerts are by the Goldsmiths Choral Union in the RFH, 3.15pm and 7.30pm, tickets £1.80-£8 and by the English Chamber Orchestra accompanying the Choir of St Paul's College, at the GEC, 7.15pm, tickets £2-£7. More carols in the RFH on Mon at 7.30pm and the GEC on Tues at 7.45pm. South Bank, London SE1 (021 3191).

MESSIAH: Handel's oratorio receives several performances this week. Today it is the turn of St Paul's Festival Choir and Orchestra at St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, London, SW1 at 7.30pm, tickets £3. Tomorrow, Jane Glover conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall at 7.30pm, tickets £2-£7; and Richard Hickox conducts the City of London Sinfonia and the Richard Hickox Singers at the Barbican (7pm, tickets £2-£7). Wed, Edward de Rivera conducts the Chorus of the Chelsea Harmonic Society at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at 7.45pm, tickets £2.50-£5.50.

PETER PAN: The Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of the J. M. Barrie fantasy opens on Thurs at 7pm. With Marc Rylance as Peter, Stephen Moore as Mr Darling and Captain Hook, Frances Tomelty as Mrs Darling and Katy Bebeau as Wendy. John Card directs. Barbican (028 8795/638 8891). Preview today, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm and 7.30pm, Until Jan 28. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Tues (except Jan 3), Thurs and Sat (also Jan 2) at 2pm.

SHNAD THE SAILOR: Ken Dodd and his Diddymen feature in this first London revival of the show since 1907. With Michael Robbins, Jacques Toye. Wimbledon Theatre (540 0362). Opens today at 2.30pm and 7pm. Until Feb 4. Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7pm; matinees only on Dec 24, Jan 8, 22, 29, evenings. Until Jan 6, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 29, 31, Feb 3.

THE YEARS BETWEEN: First radio production of Daphne du Maurier's play, staged in London in 1945, about a husband and wife trying to pick up the threads after a long wartime separation. Radio 4, 8.30-10pm.



Stimulating steps: Three moves from "Nine Sinatra Songs" by Shelley Washington and Keith Young of Twyla Tharp (see Dance)

TOMORROW

PELICAN DELTA: The delta of the River Danube is the most important remaining area for wildlife in Europe, twice the size of the Camargue and home for more than 45 species of fish and hundreds of species of birds from Europe, Asia and Africa. Not to mention huge herds of antelope which flourish in the lakes and channels leading out to the Black Sea.

Director/cameraman Alan McGregor presents a filmed report on the region, which is threatened by both drainage and agriculture. BECK, 7.45-8.40pm.

PRANKS: The Forty Minutes documentary takes a light-hearted seasonal look at various unlikely services available for hire, including a couple of stripping nuns (who have set up in Business with a government grant), and amorous pair who are engaged to liven up sedate parties and the booming trade in kissograms. BBC2, 9.35-10.15pm.

Monday

PAINTINGS QUIZ: The National Gallery is running two quizzes which demand a more careful look at its paintings. For adults, the quiz comprises a series of clues whose answers follow a seasonal theme. Five £25 vouchers for use in the gallery's shop will reward correct solutions opened on Jan 9. For children, the quiz begins on Dec 27 and has a ghostly theme, including a question about the extra foot in *The Arnolfini Marriage*.

There is also a ghostly story strip cartoon competition. Prizes are the prizes. The National Gallery, London WC2 (018 3324). Competitions open until Jan 8. Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 2-6pm (galleries closed Dec 23-26 and Jan 1). Free.

LUNCHTIME AT THE PALACE:

A week of lunchtime performances at the Palace Theatre, organized by its owner, Andrew Lloyd Webber. Today, The Actor's Centre Choir sings carols, aided by Bonnie Langford and Sarah Brightman. Tomorrow the Kosh dance; on Wed

Richard Shipton entertains; there is a juggler and illusionist on Thurs; and Andrew Lloyd Webber and friends hold a Christmas party on Fri. Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue (017 6634). Noon-2.30pm, with mulled wine, bar drinks and Christmas food available. Adults £2, children and pensioners £1.

HI-DE-HI: The stage version of the popular television comedy series, set in a 1950s holiday camp, opens at the Victoria Palace (028 4735) on Thurs at 8.30pm. With Simon Cadell, Ruth Madoc, Paul Shane, Jerry Holland and guest star Ben Warriss. Previews today at 7.30pm, Tues and Wed at 6pm and 8.30pm, Thurs at 6pm. Until Jan 10, Mon at 7.30pm, Tues-Sat at 6pm and 8.30pm.

THE WIZARD OF OZ: Cherie Drake and Fenella Fielding have leading roles as the Cowardly Lion and the Wicked Witch of the West) in this stage version of the MGM film musical, using the original songs and music. Churchill Theatre, Bromley, Kent (460 6877). Opens today at 2.30pm and 3pm, then until Jan 21, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Wed, Thurs and Sat at 4.15pm (except Jan 21 at 2.30pm).

GOOD FOR THE FIRST MILE: Six months in the life of the policeman's son, aged 22, from Jarro, Steve Cram, recently voted BBC Television sports personality of 1983. This film follows the son's series of injuries, altitude training in the snows of Colorado, his struggle even to qualify for the world championships and his eventual triumph in the 1500 metres. Channel 4, 9-10.55pm.

A TALENT FOR MURDER: Lord Oliver makes his first appearance in a BBC television drama, an adaptation of the comedy thriller by Jerome Chodorov and Noël Coward, which over two years on Broadway, plays the English writer (Angela Lansbury). As the writer's family gather at her home to celebrate her birthday, murder is committed and each person becomes a suspect. BBC2, 9.25-10.55pm.

GOING, GOING: The history of motoring, cycling and flight is presented in a giant sale of 550 lots. Mascots, trophies, commemoratives, equipment, pictures,

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL: The London Symphony Orchestra gives three concerts of seasonal music, conducted by Richard Hickox. Vivaldi's "Winter" from *The Four Seasons*, Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, Bach's "Christmas be Joyful" from the *Christmas Oratorio* and other music are played before the interval, after which there are carols for orchestra, chorus and audience. Barbican Hall, London EC2 (028 8795). Today, tomorrow and Thurs at 7pm. For a season, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Sat at 2.30pm.

ORWELL ON JURA: With 1984 only two weeks away, be prepared for an avalanche of media assessments of George Orwell and his last novel, *1984*, a vision of a future totalitarian society. This drama documentary, written by Alan Plater, follows the three-year preparation of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* on the Hebridean island of Jura and Orwell's struggle to finish the book against falling health. He is played by Ronald Pickup. BBC1, 9.25-10.55pm.

Wednesday

TREASURED POSSESSIONS: Owners of historic houses in England, Scotland and Wales have lent more than 200 works of art for an exhibition mounted in conjunction with the Historic Houses Association. Many places have close connections with the past, from the castle of Burton Constable Hall for which it was commissioned and a portrait of the third Duke of Norfolk attributed to Holbein. A two-part television film directed by Claude Gorretti (best known for his movie *The Leprosary*) and, like Rousseau, born in Geneva). The film follows Rousseau's flight through Europe, followed by his servant girl missus, his latest book and his condemnation by the authorities in France. Part one 10.45-12.25am; part two tomorrow, 11.10pm-1am.

MADEME BUTTERFLY: Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's celebrated 1974 film of Puccini's tragic opera about the Japanese geisha who is loved and abandoned by an American marine lieutenant. Plácido Domingo and Mirella Freni sing the leading roles (in Italian, with English subtitles) and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra is conducted by Herbert von Karajan. Channel 4, 9-11.50pm.

THE ROADS OF EXILE: François Simon stars as the eighteenth century Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau in a two-part television film directed by Claude Gorretti (best known for his movie *The Leprosary*) and, like Rousseau, born in Geneva). The film follows Rousseau's flight through Europe, followed by his servant girl missus, his latest book and his condemnation by the authorities in France. Part one 10.45-12.25am; part two tomorrow, 11.10pm-1am.

Family Life

Hints for reluctant yuletide hostesses

In the carefree days of my youth, before I learned to drive or had children, I used to look forward to Christmas. On the morning of Christmas Eve I would take a taxi to Liberty's, sweep through the emporium buying silk scarves, cravats and key-rings, then out again to find another cab, pausing only for a large brandy in Verneys. I would ask the second cab driver to stop at the market, where I would pick up a bird, a few pounds of sprouts and a sprig of mistletoe, and then I would go home.

It was always an expensive outing, but undertaken with a certain style, and I wish that the girl who salied forth with only a large cheque-book in her handbag were alive today instead of the woman who is fretting about the fact that she hasn't yet bought a Christmas present, made a mince pie or sent out a single card.

It's the same every year,



those I love – and some that I don't – are having the Christmases of their lives; and wondering, as I do each year, whether it is worth all the effort and expense.

And provided nobody dies, slips a disc, sets light to the dog, has a massive row or crashes the car (all of which I have known to happen), I will of course conclude that it is.

Now I must make my list – and just in case any of you is as absent-minded or short-sighted as me I will commit it to paper: Make list of everything I need from toilet rolls to tin foil. Get family to check and add to it.

Plan to visit supermarket early one morning with two helpers, one to find boxes and carry same to car and one to cross off items as we go.

Save all carboard boxes because dustbins are never big enough.

Buy twice as much wrapping paper. Sellotape, butter and cream as I think I'll need.

Buy half as many nuts and dates (I still have last year's).

Prepare and freeze mince pies, stuffings, sausage rolls and bradby butter.

Make note in diaries to remove same from freezer the day before Christmas Eve.

Get butcher to weigh turkey/goose so I'll know how long to cook it and we won't sit down for dinner at 10pm on Christmas night.

Buy half a dozen presents for

unexpected guests and a dozen extra cards plus stamps for friends we thought had forgotten us.

Make another list of all distant friends and family to telephone with seasonal greetings.

Buy large bottle of Alica Seltzer, tablets, Vitamins B, C, E and Paracetamol for those who didn't know when to stop.

Buy three times as many cigarettes as I otherwise would (all those who are trying to give up will make exceptions because it's Christmas and smoke mine).

Find out what time midnight mass really starts this year and allow twice as much time as I think I need to get there, park and find a seat that isn't behind a pillar.

Save all carboard boxes because dustbins are never big enough.

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Happy Christmas.

Judy Froshaug

about mid-November I nudge myself and swear to follow the Guides' motto to be prepared – then studiously ignore all the orange and red alerts that warn of the impending event.

It is partly because I genuinely object to what we all now accept with resignation – the horrendous over-commercialization of what should be a religious or family affair; and partly because, though I have great affection for panic or deadlines, they are so much a part of my life that without the adrenaline that accompanies them, I feel no sense of urgency, like a spring without a coil or a houseman without a bleep.

Had I had my way, we would all be off to a hotel this Christmas – somewhere with deep pile carpets and interior-sprung mattresses, in an atmosphere that would envelop us with its hospitality and yuletide efficiency and where all the chefs would do the work.

But the family will have none of it. For them Christmas has to be all about making puddings and pies, dressing the tree, wrapping presents in secrecy and opening them noisily at dawn. They like their local carol singers, the bustle of friends crossing our threshold on Christmas morning bringing bottles and good cheer – and best of all the sight of me staggering to the table bearing the golden goose. Christmas, they say year after year, would not be the same if we weren't at home.

I do have friends who manage to get away from it all – but they are, to man and woman, either rich or childless or both. Not for them the fitters scurried trying to peel the chestnuts to go with the sprouts (which only half the family likes anyway); or the in-laws who don't speak to each other but would be offended not to be asked; or the friend who hasn't a home to go to and decides to stay there for a quick drink on Christmas morning and has to be put to bed (one of yours), very drunk, twelve hours later.

While sibaritic friends sit sipping Lowenbrau above some snowy piste, or sun themselves on a Caribbean beach, I – and thousands like me – will be doing my damndest to see that

those I love – and some that I don't – are having the Christmases of their lives; and wondering, as I do each year, whether it is worth all the effort and expense.

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Happy Christmas.

Judy Froshaug

Information on these sales on 01-839 0606/930 8870

Christie's St. James's

8 King Street

London SW1

Sales Opportunities

1984

Silver

2nd February

Entries close 23 December

English Furniture

23rd February

Entries close 23 December

Old Master Pictures

24th February

Entries close 23 December

Early Furniture

in March

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A Crocker full of trouble for Midland

To judge from Crocker Bank's losses the end of Midland Bank's suffering is not yet in sight. Midland has had more than its share of misfortune; for example, Lord Armstrong's untimely death in 1980 was followed by an unsatisfactory and uncertain interregnum.

But two important strategic errors of the bank's own making have caused more serious problems than malign fate. Midland dithered and dallied far too long before making a move into the United States, preferring correspondent banking and the consortium approach to the world's most important banking market.

It also opted for a stifling management structure: in Mr Stuart Graham and Mr Malcolm Wilcox the bank had two equally powerful chief general managers, whose energies seemed to be taken up more in opposing each other than in restoring the bank to something like its previous eminence.

Divide and rule may occasionally be a useful principle in structuring senior management but division without rule has nothing to commend it. The Midland board finally recognized its error and appointed Mr Geoffrey Taylor in 1982 as sole chief executive in succession to Mr Graham and Mr Wilcox.

The legacy they left him was not enviable and it will take a long time to sort out. Meanwhile, there is Crocker.

Thursday night's news from California that Crocker has moved into the red this year and will halve its dividend confirms some of the worst fears about the quality and performance of Midland's 57 per cent-owned subsidiary. Crocker is making a special \$107m charge to meet non-repayment of property and farming loans, which will mean a fourth-quarter loss of \$57m and a loss for 1983 of about \$10m.

Midland's profits as a result of Crocker's "prudence" will be cut by 75%. Midland paid an average of \$67.4m (\$825m in total) for its Crocker shares; yesterday the price was \$23.5.

Midland's investment, which because it is so large and because it is in the United States, is crucial to the bank and its shareholders. As Midland, which completed the deal in January, was about the last in the line of foreign buyers of US banks, it was hardly in a position to buy the best.

Generally US banks are available only if they are poorly managed and/or they have exceptional difficulties with which they cannot cope. Crocker had built up heavy

Secrets of a Telecom engineer

If you want some plumbing done, say, British Telecom engineers can usually oblige. They cannot be accused of moonlighting because, in my experience, the work is done in daylight when ordinary people are trying to get through to British Telecom to find out why they cannot have a telephone installed without waiting weeks. But I am not in the market at the moment, for water pipes or bathroom fixtures. However, I would like a Prestel unit.

As you may know, you cannot have a prestel unit until BT's engineers have put in the appropriate jack. They insist on a jack monopoly, although it is simple to install. Four weeks ago my Prestel equipment supplier informed BT. Three and a half weeks later nothing had happened; or it seemed nothing had happened. In fact BT engineers arrived at the door on Wednesday, but as no one was in, they went away without even disturbing



Geoffrey Taylor: Legacy to sort out.

and vulnerable loan positions in Latin America. It had a deep commitment in real estate lending in California and, again in common with other US banks, it was running into a period of intensifying pressure on margins.

Flat corporate loan demand and, more significantly, deregulation of American banking, which has brought fierce and costly competition for deposits in the past 12 months, are making the going tough.

Midland's acquisition of Crocker is, therefore, a high cost and high risk venture. Banking in the United States for foreigners is not the easiest game in the world at the best of times. Moreover, Midland agreed to handicap itself at the start.

The Federal Reserve Board concurred with Crocker's insistence that it should be allowed to run its own affairs, without direction or interference from London.

Midland had virtually no warning of the huge provisions on property, loans and appears to have been kept in the dark about the seriousness of the situation.

This is clearly now going to change. Two of Midland's main board directors are off to California to agree with Crocker's senior management "specific ways of improving performance and to determine future working relationships between Midland and Crocker".

The affair could scarcely have come at a worse time for Midland which has just begun to get profits moving ahead again and appeared to be coming to grips with some of its long-standing problems. It now has to start all-over again rebuilding its credibility. Yesterday Midland's shares fell 53p to 384p.

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ing the letter box with a visiting card. They had, I was told by the supplier, "made an appointment for that day and had now made another appointment in January." But, I protested, they had made no such appointment with me. "No, not with you; they make an internal appointment with themselves."

It seems to me that, with a bit of luck, BT engineers can go on for ever making internal appointments which, because the customer is not let into the secret, will be kept by them alone. Of course, no jack will be installed, no Prestel unit delivered.

I hope that is not what Sir George has in mind even if the privatization of BT merely substitutes private for a public sector monopoly. Perhaps a smidgen of the £5m earmarked for marketing BT shares next year could be put into making the internal appointment system at least partially external? Who knows, it might be Prestel's salvation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tootal sells £20m stake in Australia

The Tootal Group has agreed to sell its stake in the Australian Bradmill Industries for £20.1m to Entrant, the Australian public company that was party to the failed bid for Courtaulds' Australian subsidiary, Courtaulds Hilton.

A £23.6m deal to sell Tootal's 49.9 per cent holding in Bradmill to another Australian company, Bruck (Australia), was blocked by the Australian National Companies and Securities Commission in July 1982.

Tootal shares closed up 2p at 39.5p yesterday.

Mr John Harvey-Jones, chairman of ICI, has joined the board of Grand Metropolitan as a non-executive director.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9% Finance houses base rate 9% Discount market loans week fixed 8% 3 month interbank 9% 9 1/2%

Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 10% 10 1/2% 3 month DM 8% 8 1/2% 3 month Fr 14% 13%

US rates: Bank prime rate 11.00% Fed funds 9% Treasury long bond 100-100 1/2%

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

City and industry urged to share export tip-offs

By John Lawless

A secretariat based on the Confederation of British Industry to swap export sales leads between manufacturers, City bankers and consultants was proposed yesterday in a report sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The report, called *Success in Invisibles*, says: "This move will, at last, bring the three most important sectors of our economy – industry, the City and the professions – right into the forefront of attempts to link modern information technology to dynamic marketing."

"The rewards could be huge and would put Britain years ahead of its competitors."

Charterhouse Petroleum in £47m deal

Expansion for oil high-flier

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Charterhouse Petroleum confirmed its reputation as one of the fastest growing and most ambitious of the smaller British oil companies yesterday with a £47m acquisition, which it coupled with a £38.7m rights issue.

The acquisition involves Charterhouse buying oil and gas interests in the United Kingdom, Holland, Ireland and Egypt from Fluor, the United States petrochemical company. Of the £66m total purchase price, \$45.7m is going on North Sea and onshore assets in this country.

They include a 12.7 per cent interest in the Buchanan field in the North Sea and a 12.6 per cent interest in the Humbley Grove field near Basingstoke in

Hampshire, which is scheduled to begin production in 1985. The deal involves two other onshore oil discoveries, eight North Sea licences and a spread of acreage in southern England.

The other sizable element of the deal is \$20.1m which Charterhouse is spending on a small stake in a proven gas field and a potentially commercial oil discovery in The Netherlands' offshore waters.

Yesterday's announcement follows hard on the heels of the company's decision to spend £37.5m on buying a 1.25 per cent stake in BP's Forties field in the recent auction. The two deals will give a significant boost to Charterhouse's assets, reserves and a cash flow, but will also – as with several other

Rothschild buys maximum stake in Smith Brothers

By Wayne Lintott

Rothschild Group, the holding company of merchant bank N M Rothschild, has reached agreement to buy 29.9 per cent stake in Smith Brothers the London stockjobbers. The stake is the maximum permitted by the Stock Exchange.

Smith Brothers is the fourth largest firm of jobbers and specializes in gold shares with office in New York, Los Angeles and London. Rothschild is one of the five banks which fix the price of gold twice daily and is London's biggest bullion dealer.

The deal follows an agreement reached last month between S C Warburg, the merchant bank, and Alroy and Smithers, the stockjobbers, to merge their businesses.

Smith Brothers has been named as potential partners but National Westminster is still considered the front runner.

The flurry of activity by leading institutions and stockbrokers and jobbers, who act as wholesalers of shares to the brokers, arises from the restructuring taking place in the stock market.

Greater competition is expected, particularly if the single capacity role separating share-wholesalers and retailers is abolished in favour of dual capacity.

Rothschild is paying a total £11.5m, subject to the approval of the regulatory authorities, the Stock Exchange Council, Bank of England and Smith Shareholders. It is paying 95p a share in cash for 900,000 new shares.

Smith Brothers' New York

partner, Leading merchant banks have been named as potential partners but National Westminster is still considered the front runner.

On that basis, the bankers have paid five times earnings, plus a modest premium. Smith Brothers shares were trading at 88p before the announcement having improved from 38p during the year.

The bankers cannot take up more of the Smith Brothers equity but intend forming an international dealing subsidiary next April when the Stock Exchange rules permit.

Rothschild has interests in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, America and Europe, mainly in Zurich. It is attracted by Smith Brothers' wholesale dealing expertise which the bank will exploit for international business.

Smith Brothers' New York

business will be incorporated into a subsidiary 51 per cent owned by Smiths, 49 per cent by Rothschild. The offshoot will be capitalized at £10m, half of which will be paid for by Smith.

Exploratory talks began a few weeks ago; formal discussions completed the deal this week. Both sides admit having spoken to other groups but the synergy between us was so obvious that the agreement was almost immediate", said Mr Tony Lewis, Smith chairman.

Recently Mr Jacob Rothschild's RIT & Northern financial services group received a 7.72 per cent stake in Smith.

The other major Smith shareholder is Finance for Industry which holds loan stock when converted, equivalent to 18 per cent.

Pound loses 85 points

Sterling ended the day at a new closing low against the dollar of \$1.4140, a drop of 85 points, as the US currency surged ahead again on the foreign exchange markets.

Markets remain convinced that the underlying trend for the dollar is upwards. Demand was strong yesterday ahead of last night's US money supply figures. The dollar closed just over 1 pfennig higher against the Deutsch mark at DM 2.7777.

Sterling's trade-weighted value slipped 0.1 to 81.9 and the pound was slightly weaker against European and other leading currencies.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 759.3 up 6.5

FT Gilts: 82.34 up 0.08

FT All Share: 462.48 down 1.17

Bargains: 22.511

Datatrak USM Leaders

Index: 94.94 down 0.23

New York: Dow Jones

Industrial Average:

(latest) 1236.59 down 0.20

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones

Index: 9,530.61 up 68.18

Hongkong: Hang Seng

Index: 660.77 down 9.11

Amsterdam: 155.4 up 0.6

Sydney: AO Index 754.7

down 0.7

Frankfurt: Commerzbank

Index: 1007.9 down 2.0

Brussels: General Index

133.52 unchanged

Paris: CAC Index 148.8

down 0.9

Zurich: SKA General 306.90

unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling

51.410 down 85pts

Index 81.9 down 0.1

DM 11.9850 down 0.0200

Yen 333.50 down 1.00

Dollar

Index 131.1 up 0.4

DM 2.7777 up 0.0107

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4165

Dollar DM 2.7765

INTERNATIONAL

ECU/£

SDR/£ 731.990

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):

am \$381.00 pm \$377.25

close \$373.50-374.25 (2264.00-224.50)

New York (close): \$374.25

Krugerrand (per ounce):

\$385.00-386.50 (2272.00-273.00)

Sovereigns* (new):

\$90.00-91.00 (£83.50-84.50)

*Excludes VAT

London Brick to lobby OFT

By Jeremy Warner

London Brick is expected to lobby the Office of Fair Trading next week in an attempt to have an unwanted £170m cash bid from Hanson Trust referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

It believes there is "strong possibility" of its case being accepted by the OFT which has confirmed that it will be taking a close look at the takeover bid.

London Brick is Britain

● Mortgages

Policy option

Investors with a maturing London Life endowment policy will now have the option of reinvesting the proceeds in a London Life unit-linked investment bond. This has the advantage of allowing taxpayers to take tax-free income by partial encashments of the bond.

Though the proceeds of a conventional with-profits endowment are tax-free, most people need to reinvest the lump sum and any income generated by the reinvestment is subject to income tax at the taxpayers' highest rate - plus the investment income surcharge.

Loans link

Personal loans from Midland Bank are available to investors who keep a minimum of £100 in Nationwide Building Society's Flexi account. This is a valuable service to Nationwide customers who do not have a bank account and would otherwise be forced to buy a car under a hire purchase or other credit agreement at much higher rates of interest.

Midland Bank charges between 18 and 19 per cent on personal loans depending on the term - not as cheap as an overdraft, but cheaper than most HP or credit card borrowing.

Tax surprise

Starting differentials in top rates of tax come to light in a new guide *Personal Taxes Around the World*, produced by the international accountants, Spicer Openheim.

The trend towards wealth taxation is reflected in the fact that they now apply in nine of the 24 countries covered in the guide.

The book complements the previous title in the series, *Corporate Taxes Around the World*, and is available from Spicer and Pergler, St Mary Axe House, 56-60 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BJ, price £2.50.

Mortgage hope

Housebuyers having difficulty getting a mortgage should try Skipton Building Society, which announced this week that it has funds available to lend to members and non-members. If you are a member, Mr Harry Adams, said: "The society can not only look after the mortgage needs of our own members without delay, but we can also offer mortgage facilities - sometimes up to 95 per cent - to certain non-members who may be experiencing delays with other building societies".



Some insurance premiums can be discounted if more than one car is to be covered

Dearer motoring

Legal and General is increasing motor insurance premiums by 7 per cent. "But the company says: 'defending its price like' a number of car groups have been reduced for rating purposes, and a whole series of discounts have been introduced".

Under the Private Car policy, up to 50 per cent reductions can be obtained for experienced drivers taking out a policy of their own for the first time and there are

discounts if more than one car is insured. But these discounts could be valueless if the initial premium is not competitive. A good way to check is to ring Automobile Association Insurance Services which will give you a quote on the telephone for insuring your car.

Incentives book

Small businesses needing to know how to get the most out of Government and local authority incentive schemes should

obtain a copy of Robson Rhodes, the accountants' latest publication. *Government Incentives and Assistance for Industry in the UK*, lists everything from youth employment subsidies to EEC loans and grants to the coal and steel industry.

Did you know that interest-free loans are available to fishing cooperatives or that 15 man-days' Unpaid Vacancy can be obtained from the Design Council for engineering and industrial companies with design problems? It is all in the book. Perhaps the best part is the comprehensive list of names and addresses.

Chip chat

Help is at hand for the difficult business of choosing a computer. The Institute of Chartered Accountants has published a guide called *Making a Success of Microcomputing in your Business*.

The book suggests sources of unbiased advice, and includes guidelines for a computer contract and a plan for assessing computing requirements. There is a glossary of technical terms - essential if you are one of those who believe computer programmes are knitting patterns.

Dr David Jackson and Dr Sam Lucas,

the authors, are founder members of the Microcomputer Advisory Service at Manchester University. Ben Pannell is a consultant with the Small Firms Advisory Service at the Department of Industry. Copies of the guide are available price £5.45 from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, PO Box 433, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BZ.

Holiday credit

Holidaymakers who book a holiday through Intasun will be offered a credit facility from Boston Trust and Savings which allows them to borrow up to £3,000 at an annual rate of 23.8 per

This is slightly more expensive than credit card borrowing, and about 5 per cent higher than bank personal loans, but a useful facility for any one without a bank account.

Mr Graham Telford, director of Boston Trust & Savings, said: "We expect many people will use the Boston Freedom Credit Account to help finance their next holiday". Borrowers will also get a chequebook, bankers card and monthly statement book, and five of them in Debenhams department stores.

● Mortgages

Home loans queues may disappear

Home loans will be easier to come by in the New Year and mortgage queues may disappear altogether.

This will exert upward pressure on house prices so avoid delay if you are thinking of moving house. By April, the house you want could cost considerably more.

The building societies need to attract about £700m a month to maintain present levels and last month's receipts of £287m meant the £700m ceiling had been exceeded each month since August.

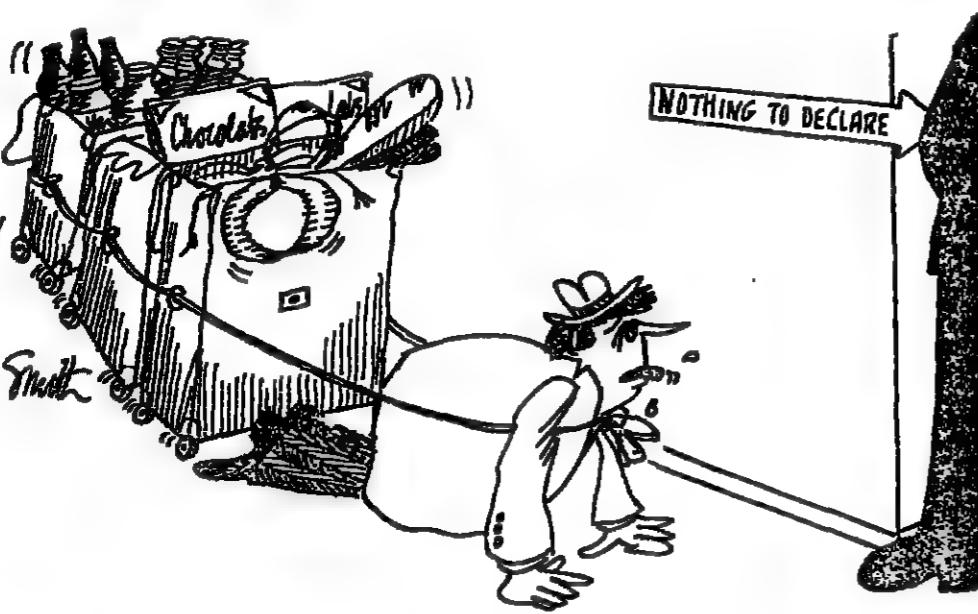
December is looking healthier and January is always a good month as interest is credited to investors' accounts.

Add to this the fact that the societies do not have a Building Societies Association Council meeting in January so no decision to cut rates can be made until February (unless a special meeting is called) and the likelihood is that the societies will be awash with money by March.

Most societies can provide a loan within four weeks during the summer it was 12. But because house owners with more than one building society account often approach several societies there is much duplication of applications.

Once money is available, the queues could disappear.

About the only dark patch on an otherwise bright horizon is that interest rates generally have hardened a little. During the New Year tax-gathering season, demand for money is higher than average and there could be further upward pressure on bank base rates.



Cross-Channel shopping

Preparation will help to unlock quayside value

There are only six cross-Channel shopping days to Christmas and already the men are in a panic. Spouses who would not be seen dead in their local supermarket seem to take to Continental shopping like ducks to water.

During a Press outing to Boulogne this week, one of my male colleagues left halfway through a splendid lunch to take a taxi to the supermarket with his rucksack. Another appeared festooned with Christmas tinsel: the decorations were much cheaper than at home.

The oddest spectacle of all was my own dear spouse - a teetotaller - scouring the hypermarket wine racks with enthusiasm. Even a dedicated port-drinker could hardly fail to appreciate that the best buys the other side of the water are booze, booze, and more booze.

Basic wine in the hypermarket is a fraction of the price at home. But probably the best buys were five- and ten-litre plastic cans in a wine shop in Calais. They worked out at about 55p a litre (most bottles are three-quarters of a litre). You could taste it before you bought, then it was pumped into the can.

You can bring back up to seven litres of wine per person from France, provided you bring no other alcohol, or 50 litres of beer, which is less than half price at home.

In addition, you can buy up to £120 worth of other goodies. Table basics like olive oil and coffee are nearly half price.

Most of the popular French cheeses are cheaper than in Britain - but not all that much cheaper and they do not keep in the freezer. The paté I bought

Cross Channel Shopping Prices

	UK	France
Côte du Bergerac (bottle)	£2.00	55p
Oliva Oil (1/2 litre)	£1.50	84p
Ground Coffee (1 lb)	£2.75	£1.50
Croissants (1 lb)	£3.20	£2.11
Bread (1 lb)	£1.50	£1.20
Tomme de Comté	£1.28	£1.28

11.8 French francs to the £

was roughly the same price as in Britain, but much better quality. Paté do keep in the freezer.

There is nothing to stop you bringing back some of the sumptuous French seafood, though the Customs men were not too certain about the live lobsters crawling round the hypermarket's fish stall.

Bulk purchases are probably best made in the hypermarkets, but the smaller town-centre shops are better hunting grounds for the dedicated eater. I spent half an afternoon tasting cheese in Calais and munching free samples from the mouth-watering chocolate shops.

Plenty of hardware goes cheap as well - Le Creuset cookware, for instance, sells at between a third and a quarter less than in Britain. Perhaps brides should hang their wedding lists on the cross-Channel ferry.

Really keen shoppers do not have lunch before they start. Alcohol, I discovered, plays havoc with the calculator. You also tend to spend the best part of the afternoon searching for the paté or cheese you enjoyed so much at mid-day.

It is much easier to take your car across and only a little more expensive. The midweek return cost for four passengers and vehicle from Dover to Boulogne or Calais is £38 and only a little more at weekends. Passengers on foot pay £7.50.

Margaret Drummond

Insurance

Easy steps to cover a slip-up

The cold weather has arrived and betting has started on the chances of a white Christmas. But what happens if someone slips on the snow outside your house or on the garden path?

A Department of Transport spokesman said: "It's helpful if householders can assist by clearing the snow from the pavement in front of their houses. But many people worry about doing this in case passers-by slip on a cleared area, hurt themselves, and then sue the householder."

"Injured passers-by could only do this if they could successfully prove that the household had been careless in snow clearing and created a new hazard, or made the pavement more dangerous than before."

This is not too reassuring. But provided you have normal household contents insurance cover there is no need to worry. Most household policies (both buildings and contents) contain third-party liability cover.

As an occupier, you would be covered under your contents policy for any successful damages claim arising out of uncleared, or negligently cleared, snow on your paths or drives.

Third-party liability cover is usually included as standard protection - very occasionally it is an optional extra. Check your policy.

Burst pipes can be a problem, too, particularly if you are planning on going away over Christmas leaving the house empty. Turn the water off at the mains and drain the pipes or you may come back to a flooded house. And remember to cancel milk and newspapers or you will be leaving an open invitation to thieves.

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- * Monthly statements



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Address _____

FAMILY MONEY

Unit trust performance

The figures show the value on December 1 of £100 invested 12 months, and three years ago respectively, on an offer-to-offer price basis, net income reinvested. Figures supplied by Planned Savings.

FINANCIAL

	12mths	36mths
Britannia Fin Socs	145.3	175.9
Henderson Fin Socs	147.1	158.9
Brit Inv Fin Socs	140.0	185.9
Day Inv Inv 1st	143.9	185.9
S & P Securities	140.8	162.7
West Fin 1st	140.6	182.8
Hill Samuel Fin	140.2	150.8
Practical	140.1	175.0
Target Inv 1st	140.0	175.1
S & P Inv Fin 1st	139.9	168.2
Brit Prop Shrs	138.5	127.7
S & P Fin Secs	137.7	188.3
Tyndall Fin & Prp	137.3	131.3
M & G Fin 1st	136.7	165.1
Target Financial	136.3	194.9
Brown Ship Fin	135.3	134.4
Barclaycard Fin	135.4	134.5
Leeds Fin 1st	135.4	162.0
Legal & General	122.0	122.0
Arbuthn Fin & Prp	121.5	127.0
Holborn Crt	119.8	118.5
Frgn Con & Gte	118.5	118.5
Canf/Gte/Fd Int	117.6	117.6
Allied Gt Grwth	117.0	117.0
Proffit Gt Cap	116.3	116.3
Hendson Fin 1st	116.1	116.1
S & P Fin 1st	115.9	158.1
Tyndall Crt	115.9	170.9
Abby W Bnd	115.0	170.9
Erg & Law Fx Inv	115.3	148.0
Britannia Glt	115.3	114.8
Rowan Fx Inv	114.7	114.7
Gte Glt & Fin 1st	114.7	114.7
Cater Aler Glt	113.9	149.9
Manuf Glt & Fx	113.8	143.3
Abby Glt & Fin 1st	113.5	143.3
Fdly Glt Fx Int	113.4	147.6
Abby Glt Fx Int	113.1	113.1
Gartmore Glt	113.1	113.1
Henderson Glt	112.9	130.4
Mid Blk Glt Fx Int	112.9	144.2
Target Glt Capital	111.9	143.2
Brit Spec Mkt Sls	111.9	139.8
Abiht Glt Fx Int	111.9	137.8
Schrd Glt Fx Int	111.8	118.8
MG Glt Fx Int Inc	111.8	150.8
Mercury Glt	111.6	111.6
Rowan Hgt Inv	111.4	111.4
Abby Glt & Fd Int	111.1	111.1
Tyndall Glt	110.7	154.1
S & P Glt & Fd Int	110.3	110.3
Craigmount Glt	109.2	124.0
S & P Glt & Fx Int	108.0	136.9
Tyndall Pref	107.8	148.7
Target Prefs	106.0	155.4
Britannia Fin 1st	104.8	141.4
Hendson Fin 1st	104.8	141.4
Arbuthn Fin 1st	103.1	119.5
Key Fixed Int	100.8	140.5
Henderson F & G	94.8	133.4

GROWTH

	12mths	36mths
Prolific Tech	158.1	188.8
Hk Technology	153.9	188.8
Brown Shpl Tech	152.4	188.8
Brown Capital	151.8	188.8

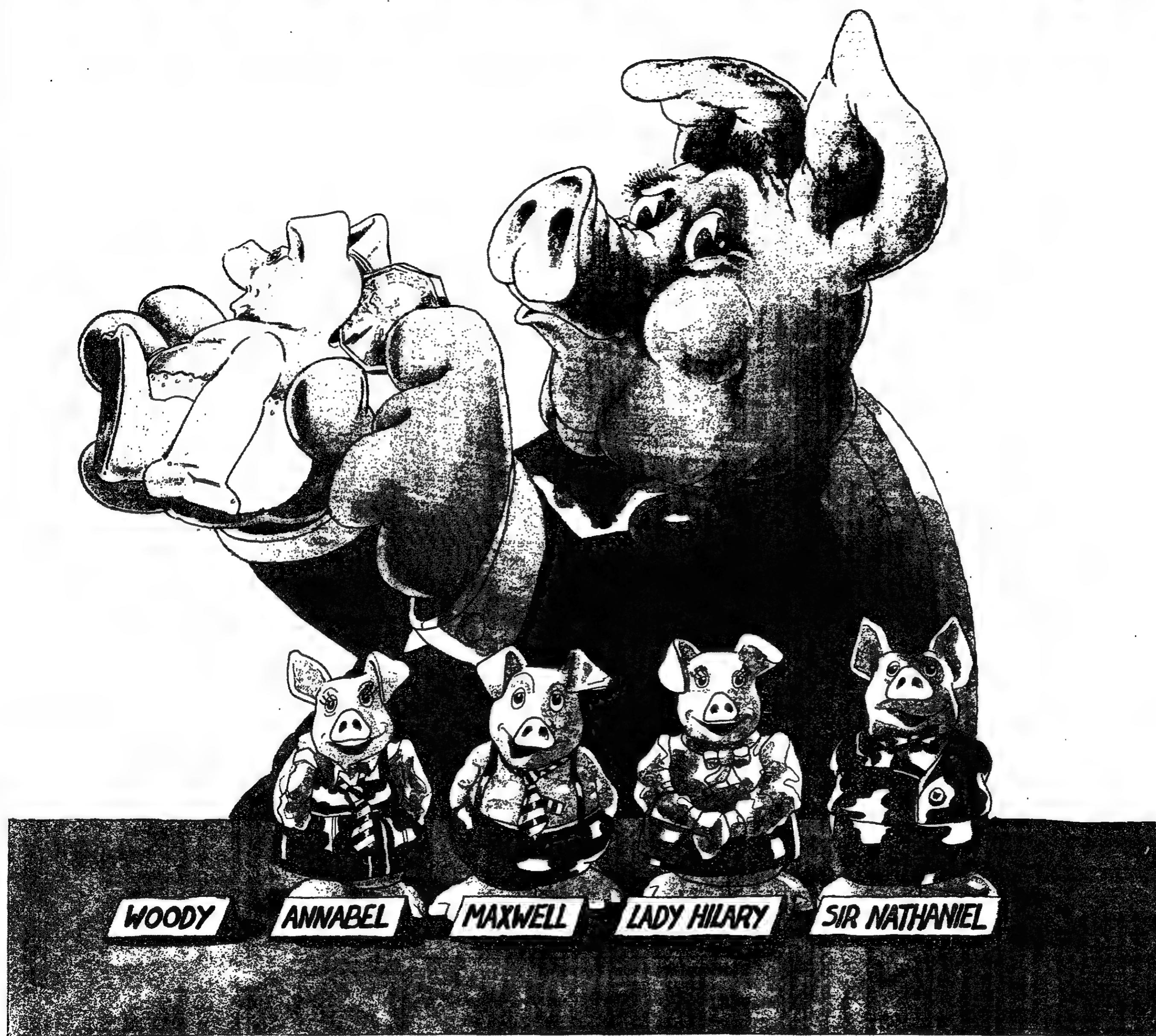
INCOME

	12mths	36mths
Gamon Income	168.4	179.3
F & C Income	149.8	179.3
M & G Mid & Gen	148.2	188.9
Schroder Inc	146.8	200.0
Crown High Inc	146.3	203.5
Nat West Ex Inc	143.8	143.0
TSB Ex Inc	143.0	143.0
M & G Dividend	141.6	182.6
Key Income	138.2	195.8
Ez & Law High Inc	137.9	137.9
Rowan High Yield	137.8	187.6
Bridge Inc	137.5	152.0
S & P Scytiel	137.2	181.0
Brown Ship H Inc	137.1	167.3
Pearl Inc	137.0	188.3
M & G High Inc	136.9	176.9
Brown Shpl Inc	136.6	187.7
Tyndall Scot Inc	136.3	184.0
Midland Blk Inc	136.2	174.0
Menap	135.9	139.7
Archway	137.8	149.6
Brit Smi Cos	137.6	234.8
Minister	136.0	196.8
Family Fund	135.0	172.7
Bri Shpl	134.9	192.0
Brugn Smi Cos	134.3	184.9
Alain Blanded	134.1	177.3
Lds Bls Co Rc	133.4	210.5
Mil Smi Br	133.0	168.3
MGM Smi Cos	132.8	164.7
Bkfstm Smi Cos	132.6	124.0
Fidelity Max Ety	135.8	193.4
Framlington Ex Inc	135.5	178.8
Tyndall Inc	135.4	169.9
MGM High Inc	135.4	175.0
Hill Sami Cos	135.1	175.0
T & G Colco	131.5	168.4
Oppen Inv Grh	129.9	291.9
Crescent Tokyo	127.5	338.3
Barrington Erpan	127.3	242.4
HSB Japan	127.0	105.1
Goveit Euro Grh	127.5	170.6
Hill Samuel	127.5	197.5
Allied Inntnl	127.2	160.0
Lloids B N Am	127.1	180.6
Oppen Inv Grh	126.6	227.1
Bridge Intl	126.5	230.9
Brigntn Widewe	126.4	190.8
S & P Pld Sts Grh	126.3	174.3
Brown Gt Grh Inc	126.0	184.8
Chieflain Smi Cos	126.5	130.9

OVERSEAS

	12mths	36mths
Gt European	204.4	227.5
Abbey Japan	192.0	219.0
Fidelity Japan	184.4	214.5
Henderson Epan	180.6	244.6
H.N. American	180.0	224.4
Swart American	178.8	216.3
Hill Gt Grh Inc	177.7	212.0
Dun & Loepe Or	176.6	205.1
Goveit Euro Grh	175.5	170.6
Hill Samuel	175.3	197.5
Allied Inntnl	175.2	160.0
Lloids B N Am	175.1	180.6
Oppen Inv Grh	174.9	227.1
Crescent Tokyo	174.5	338.3
Barrington Erpan	174.3	242.4
HSB Japan	174.0	105.1
Goveit Euro Grh	173.5	170.6
Hill Samuel	173.5	197.5
Allied Inntnl	173.2	160.0
Lloids B N Am	173.1	180.6
Oppen Inv Grh	172.9	227.1
Crescent Tokyo	172.5	338.3
Barrington Erpan	172.3	242.4
HSB Japan	172.0	105.1
Goveit Euro Grh	171.5	170.6
Hill Samuel	171.5	197.5
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Charlton and Venables enter the reckoning as Neill is dismissed

By David Miller

A week ago Arsenal's chairman Peter Hill-Wood's intention was to stay calm in adversity. Yesterday, the club decided to dismiss their manager, Terry Neill. The decision was forced by an acceptance that Neill has been under more personal stress than his urban Irish humour ever allowed to be publicly apparent.

The most obvious possible successor to Neill, who has two years of his contract to run, are the currently available Jack Charlton and I would expect Terry Venables, whose contract with Queen's Park Rangers expires next autumn. For the moment Neill's assistant Don Howe, who last year turned down the opportunity of joining the FA on a full-time basis, will be in charge, starting at home to Watford today.

Howe would be a candidate, Hill-Wood said yesterday, when the position is advertised, but it would probably make sense in Arsenal's present circumstances for a total change from the Neill/Howe regime. Although Howe, an outstanding coach who also worked with Bertie Mee's championship-winning side, was responsible for giving coherence to Ron Greenwood's squad in the World Cup, it is not logical to suppose that as former No 2 he would succeed where Neill has, by Arsenal's standard, failed.

I think Hill-Wood will want a combination of several characteristics in the man to take command of London's most famous club - by which I do not intend any slight upon illustrious neighbours Tottenham Hotspur, in whose shadow Arsenal have lived uncomfortably in the past two or three seasons.

Established proficiency of coaching success and leadership



Charlton: forthright.



Venables under contract.

must be taken for granted, but I think Hill-Wood, who succeeded his father as chairman, will also want a forthright character capable of controlling and inspiring star players. Charlton is that kind of man, even if his direct North Eastern connection might occasionally turn Highbury's marble halls a shade of blue, a contrast to Neill's polite blarney and the correct bureaucratic manner of Mee.

The question must be whether Charlton would want the London life, would forego his love of going shooting with his dog on the Yorkshire moors, whether he still has the energy at 50 for the enormous challenge which Arsenal would offer and the achievement they would expect, even if he did, in vain, hope to be interviewed for Bobby Robson's job with England.

Venables, of course, is the archetypal Londoner, and it must remain to be seen if he will apply while at present under contract, in which case Arsenal would have to seek

permission from Jim Gregory to discuss the possibilities. Hill-Wood would certainly not breach the gentleman's agreement not to poach other club's managers, and indeed Luton's chairman Denis Mortimer was quick to state yesterday that if approached for the admirable David Pleat, he would be obliged to say no. "He is very good, and we intend to keep him."

In fact, it must be wondered whether Arsenal would want an essentially low-key manager such as Pleat, or Graham Taylor, who has had such a remarkable success from the lower divisions with Watford, it will also be suggested by outsiders that Arsenal should consider Liam McMenemy, if he was interested, but I think it is improbable that Hill-Wood would go for him. Sadly, the time has passed when Arsenal would be interested in Milanic from Yugoslavia, for he is now past his prime and taken up with earning hard currency in Kuwait. He missed his chance

in 1974 when Arsenal first went for him. When that innovative move failed, they appointed Neill.

It is only two weeks since Hill-Wood stated that there was no intention of reacting to the outcry from Highbury supporters to make changes, but in the last few days he must have become convinced that it was necessary.

Hill-Wood stressed yesterday that he was sad to have to part company with a man who had been a friend for 20 years. Neill joined Arsenal at 17 from Bangor, was made captain by Billy Wright and remained 11 years before moving to Hull, aged 28, as player-manager for four years. At the same time he was manager of Northern Ireland, a post he relinquished when he moved to Spur. He resigned there, having succeeded Bill Nicholson, and a month later took the vacancy which Milanic had failed to fill.

In seven and a half years under Neill's management Arsenal never finished lower than 10th in the first division, though this season they have slumped to 16th with only seven wins in 17 matches.

He took them to three successive FA Cup Finals, of which they won only the middle one, in 1979 against Manchester United. He spent £7.5 million, of which he recouped £4.3 million, but he was severely criticised two seasons ago for allowing Brady and Stapleton to leave, and several more recent expensive signings such as Chapman from Stoke, the Yugoslav Petrovic and Nicholas from Celtic this season, have not been successful. He recently paid £500,000 for Caton, of Manchester City, and it remains to be seen whether, under new direction, Caton can help to stop the undoubtedly rot which has set in.

Their equaliser in the fifty-third minute was a personal breakthrough for Brazil, who must have regarded Old Trafford more like the Old Bailey as much did he feel on trial. At least he proved his case. After Hoddie's 'no', he had been dropped down by O'Reilly, he had his first League goal for Tottenham in a season with a spectacular overhead kick.

United deserved the lead, if not in such bizarre circumstances, for taking the initiative and nowhere was it more apparent than in midfield where Hoddie was overshadowed by his England colleagues, Wilkins and Robson. But the most artistic touches came from Muhren, restored to the United side after injury.

With featherweight chins, he relied on both Wilkins and Robson and then, encouraged to go forward on his own, saw his heavyweight Valley headed off the line by Falco. Yet United's defence, with Duxbury moving over to replace the absent McQueen, suffered moments of anxiety when Tottenham in turn pushed forward.

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United were back in front within a minute. Clemence had already watched Stapleton fire over from close range, and saved from Graham before turning aside another effort from Stapleton. From the ensuing corner, nothing short of a steamroller was going to deny Moran, who forcefully claimed his first goal since early September.

Clemence, after twice denying Stapleton, was beaten again from the next corner, Goss heading in at the far post in the seventy-third minute. But Tottenham replied immediately, Falco being given the opportunity from the firm touch of Ardiles, returning for only his fifth game in two years.

Moran added United's fourth in the eighteenth minute after a terrible mistake by Clemence.

MANCHESTER UNITED: D Hoddie, P Moran, A Ashton, P Wilkins, K Moran, M Duxbury, A Wilkins, A Muhren, F Stapleton, N Whitehead, A Brazil.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: R Clemence, O'Leary, D Thomas, G Roberts, G Stevens, G Goble, A Goble, A Brad, M Falco, A Ardiles, A O'Shea.

Referee: A Saunders (Newcastle).

Wallace: going all out.

could hardly wait to put his players through a vigorous practice match.

Dundee so far, have once a supporter of his new club before becoming a player with whom they can be proud, and Dundee United can prove an outstanding leader. But Rangers are so much more confident nowadays that it is difficult to visualize them dropping a point this afternoon, even though they will be without the suspended McAdam and Redford.

Celtic also have three players out of action for their visit to Hearts at Tynecastle and the new signing from Stirling Albion, John Colquhoun, may come into contention for a place in the team.

Knox does not intend to hang about. He seeks early success. Indeed, he arrived at the press conference organised to announce his appointment in succession to Donald Mackay carrying a bag containing his training gear and

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Two clubs in even worse straits than Dundee are Wolverhampton Wanderers, who are bottom, and Stoke City, bottom but one, and they meet at Molineux. Burridge, Palmer, Daniel and Eves could be recalled by Wolves, although they are all available for transfer. For Stoke, Thomas, James and McIlroy have reported from international duty and Dyson and O'Callaghan are added to the team that lost 4-2 at home to Luton Town.

The last named has been linked with Arsenal who make a late selection from 14 for their game against Watford at Highbury. O'Leary is almost certain to return to the defence after missing two matches with a leg injury and there may be glances for Sunderland, Cork and O'Shea.

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RACING: CHAMPION TRAINER FANCIED TO TAKE TODAY'S TWO MAIN RACES

The Mighty Mac can stay ahead

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

With Bregawn and Badsworth Boy both falling and Ashley House running indifferently things did not go according to plan for Michael Dickinson at Haydock Park earlier this week. However, the champion trainer has a knack of bouncing back and I expect him to do precisely that this afternoon by winning the day's two most valuable events at Ascot and Doncaster with The Mighty Mac (1.20) and Fearless Imp (2.00).

Dickinson knows what is required to win the SGB Steeplechase at Ascot, having done so 12 months ago with Captain John. However, the two are entirely different. Whereas Captain John had already shown himself to be an out-and-out stayer before his SGB success, the Mighty Mac has excelled only over shorter distances. So, his ability to stay three miles at this level has to be taken on trust, although it is only fair to point out that he

Three winners for Francome

John Francome completing his half century of winners for the season with a treble on Vendeville, End of Era and Star of Ireland at Fakenham yesterday. The champion jockey showed why the leader in the race for this season's crown, John O'Neill, his cause for concern with yet another brilliant performance, round off in brilliant style on Star of Ireland (11-4) and West Norfolk Novices Hurdle.

Alan Jarvis's promising recruit won on his bit by five lengths from the 5-2 joint favourite, Sarafina. Francome said: "He will be suited by a more galloping track where you can switch him off and then use him speed."

Ascot

Going: good to firm
Total Doubles: 1.20, 2.30. Treble: 1.25, 1.55, 3.0
(Television (BBC1): 12.50, 1.20, 1.55 and 2.30 races)
12.15 KILLINIE CHASE (novices: 25.55s: 2m 4f (7 runners))

104 511-21 CAPTAIN DYNAMO (Mr P. Nichols) D. Nichols 7-1-8 S. Eccles
105 512-21 LINAWN (Stone Wood Stud) N Henderson 6-1-11 J. Francome
106 2710-21 ACES WILD (Mrs M. Valentine) F. Winter 5-10-13
107 513-21 THOMAS THOMAS (Mrs J. Thomas) M. Shandron
108 2222-21 BLACK RODD (A. M. Nichols) M. Nichols 5-10-13
109 500-21 CULHAN (W. Shedy) T. Shedy 5-10-13
110 3 111 21 DOOR LATCH (H. Jones) J. Gifford 5-10-10 R. Rowley

11-8 Linawn, 4-2 Captain Dynamo, 7-8 Aces Wild, 8-2 Door Latch, 12-8 Beau Ranger, 20 others.

12.50 H.S.E. FIRE SHOPS HURDLE (24.947: 2m) (12)

201 210-23 ROBIN WONDER (J. H. Davies) M. H. Easterby 9-11-13 J. H. Davies
202 112-23 S. B. BULLA (D. Nichols) M. H. Easterby 9-11-13 J. H. Davies
203 210-23 GREAT LIGHT (F. Shedy) J. Shedy 5-11-9 S. Eccles
204 049-21 GANSBAY (D. M. Silver) D. Nichols 5-10-13 J. Francome
205 111-21 HEDDERIDGE (A. M. Nichols) M. Nichols 5-10-13 J. Francome
210 4111 FAIRFIELD BOY (D. C. Ross) C. Ross 5-10-13 S. Eccles
211 2113-21 ALASTOR O'MAVROS (M. Peres) G. Gifford 4-10-10 P. Nichols
212 111-21 KALAMONI (Mrs L. H. Hargan) J. Gifford 4-10-10 P. Nichols
220 4-21 PERIMON (D. M. Walford) K. Stone 4-10-8 A. Brown
221 11-4 Very Promising, 7-2 Sula Bula, 8-2 Admira's Cottage, 8-2 Robin Wonder, 10 Kallomeni, 12
Pindus Boy, Green Light, 14, Gamay, 16, Darceland, 33 others.

Pindus Boy, Green Light, 14, Gamay, 16, Darceland, 33 others.

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1.20 SGB CHASE (handicap: £12,056: 3m) (8)

301 501-1111 THE MIGHTY MAC (Mrs J. Lane) M. W. Dickenson 8-11-10 Mr D. Brown
304 600-21 TACIRONA (D. Nichols) D. Nichols 8-10-12
305 600-21 CANNY DANBY (D. Nichols) D. Nichols 8-10-12
306 111-21 APPROACHING (CO) (D. M. Wigert) J. Gifford 12-10-2 P. Nichols
311 328-21 ANOTHER BREEZE (CO) (Mrs J. Gifford) G. Gifford 12-10-2 S. Eccles
312 618-21 BALBOA'S RETURN (CO) (Mrs B. Tinkham) J. Gifford 12-10-2 S. Eccles

312 2121P MIRABRASS (CO) (D. Estes) R. Estes 10-10-6

8-11 The Mighty Mac, 5 Gaye Chance, 8-2 Garry Darby, 8-2 Sailor's Return, 10 Approaching.

POWELL, ALEXANDER (10-11) 1st runner, 14/1 to Charente, 2nd runner, 14/1 to Charente, 3rd runner, 14/1 to Charente, 4th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 5th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 6th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 7th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 8th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 9th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 10th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 11th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 12th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 13th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 14th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 15th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 16th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 17th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 18th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 19th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 20th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 21st runner, 14/1 to Charente, 22nd runner, 14/1 to Charente, 23rd runner, 14/1 to Charente, 24th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 25th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 26th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 27th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 28th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 29th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 30th runner, 14/1 to Charente, 31st runner, 14/1 to Charente, 32nd runner, 14/1 to 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RUGBY UNION

Selectors seek solution to a central problem

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The injury to Dodge, the Leicester centre, last weekend has added considerably to the interest of the Christmas club programme in England. His broken leg will prevent him from playing for a minimum of 10 weeks and this weekend the selectors are due to meet to discuss trial teams after pursuing their researches at Bath, Leicester and Coventry.

It is reasonable to assume that centres will be looked at with the most critical of eyes and, in that respect, it is unfortunate that Salmon, capped by New Zealand three times in 1981, has been forced by an ankle injury to drop out of the Harlequins side to play at Bath today. He would have provided Palmer, who was an England replacement throughout the 1980 grand slam season, with an admirable test.

Bath will be hoping to recover some equilibrium after the defeat last weekend against Gloucester, but they will be without their captain, Spurrell, who will be absent for six weeks after an operation on a knee. Cunningham, the hooker, is playing for the Anglo-Scots and the obvious replacement for Spurrell, the much-travelled Jones, is also injured. Bath therefore move Hall to open-side flank and retain Turner, while Bass books Harlequins, also defeated last weekend, by Bedford; restor Thompson to the centre.

Dodge's absence from Leicester's ranks may mean an extended run in the centre for Bass, a converted scrum half who has impressed on several previous occasions. He came on as a replacement during last season's John Player Cup final, the last occasion on which Leicester and Bristol met, when Bristol took the cup for the first time.

The match also gives the Bristol midfield of Barnes, Hogg and Knibbs the opportunity to

Concern over death of Poles

By Chris Than

The mysterious and bizarre circumstances surrounding the deaths of two Polish players are puzzling officials of the Paris-based Federation Internationale de Rugby (FIR).

FIR held an emergency session today in Paris to discuss the Polish failure to fulfil their recent fixture against Italy in Padua.

Serious doubts are now being expressed about Poland's future participation in FIR's 18-nations championship and the Italians were particularly upset as the Poles pulled off the match only days before it was due to take place and when all the preparations had been completed.

A strange story emerged when FIR contacted the Polish Federation. The Poles said that they called off the game because of the accidental death of two key players. According to the chairman of Poland's Technical Committee, Charles Deneau of France, the Polish Federation claimed that following the deaths the authorities refused to allow the team to travel to Italy. Their decision seemed less surprising when some details about the bizarre circumstances emerged.

Another university player, Simon Smith of Cambridge, hopes to be available for Wasps during the rest of the season. Smith, one of several talented young right wings in the country, is in his final year and, according to Wasps policy, is working his way up the sides from the thirds last week to the seconds this week.

Promotion, therefore, has not come sufficiently quickly to allow him to play against Northampton at Sudbury today when Cardus and Karnars occupy the wing positions in a game which has had to be cancelled on the last three occasions because of the weather. Northampton come to London on the crest of a revival and hoping to provide Wasps with their first defeat of the season.

Another club still looking for their first defeat are O'Farrell, who go to Wakefield, where they should maintain their splendid record. Wakefield, however, have more than a passing interest in England's central problems, since they have the young Yorkshire centre, Barley, as a live contender.

Busy time for Irish

By George Ace

The Irish selectors face a busy evening following today's final trial at Lansdowne Road. They will convene immediately after the game, when an Irish squad will be named for a training session on December 31 and will also select the Irish Rugby Union's President's XV for the match against Ulster, under floodlights at Ravenhill, Belfast, on January 4.

Rarely does an Irish trial make any great impression on the opinions already held by the selectors after the later provincial series. A clear indication of their thinking is apparent in the composition of the Probables side, which includes all of last season's team who shared the five nations championship with France, with the exception of right half prodigy Gerry McLoughlin, who is still in the running, following an off-the-ball incident in a club match, and full back Hugo MacNeill, who withdrew with a leg injury. McLoughlin's place goes to the

Probables: J Murphy (Cork), P. Flanagan (Galway), D. Ryan (Bengal), N. Keenan (Lancashire), M. Finn (Cork Constitution), O. Cawley (Ulster), G. Flanagan (M. Mary's, Galway), J. McCullagh (Cork), J. O'Driscoll (London Irish), D. Lenihan (Cork Constitution), M. Keane (London Irish), P. O'Farrell (Bengal), N. Dungan (Belfast), T. Murphy (Lancashire), T. Ward (St Mary's), J. Doyle (Cork Constitution), G. O'Farrell (London Irish), M. Fitzpatrick (Lancashire), Captain, R. Keeney (London Irish), J. Gleeson (Cork), B. McCullagh (London Irish), D. O'Gorman (UCD), D. Spring (London Irish), D. Burns (Lancashire)

Win will ensure share of title for South

By Iain Mackenzie

South of Scotland, who have scored 59 points and conceded only two penalty goals so far in their attempt to retain the Scottish interdistrict championship, will ensure at least a share of the title if they beat Edinburgh at Myreside this evening. A win will give them six points from three games.

Glasgow, who have already beaten Edinburgh and the North & Midlands, would then be the only district with any chance of preventing the South from winning their twelfth title outright.

They travel to Hawick on Christmas Eve and an unexpected victory there would give them the championship outright for only the third time, or, alternatively, a share of it, depending on the result at Myreside. Had today's match been scheduled for the Borders, there would

The Iron Duke has a lot to answer

Why George Washington is sure to meet her Waterloo

The name George Washington staring out at me from an article about women's tennis is a reminder of the uneasy part played by popular history in sports journalism. I have often been picked up in the middle of reading a piece on some blameless pastime and deposited among the legs of the charging Light Brigade or at the bottom of a shell crater at Passchendaele.

The Duke of Wellington has much to answer for. Not only did he defeat Napoleon at Waterloo, but he is also supposed to have said that that battle was won on the playing fields of Eton. He described it as "a damned nice thing - the nearest run thing you ever saw in your life", which even, in newspaper accounts of a myriad sporting contests, has been garbled into "a close run thing".

Henry V exhorting his army before Agincourt is a convenient image for a captain motivating the lads in the dressing room, and Drake ignoring the Armada and stopping to finish his game of bowls will serve for any ice-cool English sportsman in a crisis. When "the Gating's jammed and the Colonel dead" in Newbolt's poem, a schoolboy rallies the ranks in the desert with his cry of "Play up! play up! and play the game!"

Gordon Allan

CROSS COUNTRY



Bayi: making tracks for the steeplechase at Los Angeles.

Africans run into a surprise at Ipswich

By Pat Butcher

David Mooncroft was in some doubt yesterday about his chances of contesting the International Athletics Cup in Ipswich this afternoon after a midweek storm. But Ken Hutchings, the English champion, and Steve Harris, his England colleague, will face some formidable opposition from Gidamis Shahanga and Zachariah Barie, of Tanzania, in the 10-kilometre event. The Africans finished first and second in a five mile road race in Los Angeles last week, both beating 22min 30sec.

It is highly unlikely that these questions and many others will ever be answered. However, FIR should demand a full explanation from the Poles and introduce as a matter of precaution regular anti-doping tests for the international games played under their jurisdiction.

FIR's 18-nations championship, the largest steeplechase competition anywhere in the world is split into three groups. The senior team of six countries is made up of France, Romania, Morocco, and the Soviet Union, Italy and Poland. The two winners of the second division group gain promotion to the top group.

A spokesman for FIR said that according to the Federation's bylaws Poland have lost the Padua title by forfeit, although the Poles were in fourth place. Hutchings has looked good this season, winning at Gateshead and Paris, but he got left behind in a mass start in Nancy last Sunday and although he finished

strongly could only get back to sixth place.

Hutchings and Harris, who won the Rank-Xerox 10 kilometre road race in Battersea two weeks ago, have the talent to get among the very best in the world at 3,000 metres. It was a shame that they, like Mooncroft, had to miss the first world championships in Helsinki last August. Mooncroft and Harris were injured and Harris ran the qualifying time too late.

There will be much interest in Bayi's performance. He is now studying in El Paso with his two Tanzanian colleagues. He is a resolute from runner, and admitted yesterday that it is the only way he can run. It cost him the Olympic steeplechase gold medal in Moscow, when his last early pace reduced him to a crawl on the last lap and he conceded victory to Malinowski, the ebullient Pole.

Hutchings has the opportunity to convince the selectors that he should be nominated now for the next world championship in New York next March, for he does not want to run the English national championship, which is normally the selection race, over again. After only two weeks back from his injury and Harris is now back into full training without mishap. He plans to run the steeplechase in the Olympics next year.

Top FIR officials are worried since Poland have played only one game so far and their withdrawal could leave the remaining four countries France, Morocco and the Soviet Union.

FIR is also running an under-19 international tournament with 14 countries but officials in Paris said that the problem of the Polish team in the senior group will not affect the plans for a junior competition scheduled to take place in Poland next year.

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National security requires identification of informant

Secretary of State for Defence and Another v *Guardian* News papers Ltd

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Griffiths and Lord Justice Slade

[Judgment delivered December 16]

The interests of national security required that the identity of the person who disclosed to *The Guardian* newspaper a memorandum of the Secretary of State for Defence classified secret should be established forthwith and according to section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 afforded no defence to the newspaper.

Section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 provides "No court may require a person to disclose, nor is any person guilty of contempt of court for refusing to disclose, the source of information contained in a publication, in which he is responsible unless it is established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime".

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by *Guardian* Newspapers Ltd from Mr Justice Scott's order of December 15 (*The Times*, December 16, 1983). It should be noted that the Secretary of State for Defence and the Attorney General, a photostatic copy of a memorandum prepared by the secretary of state for the Prime Minister.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted but the court refused a stay of execution.

Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC and Mr Peter Peters for *Guardian* Newspapers; Mr Simon D. Brown for the plaintiffs.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case raised again the extent to which journalists should be allowed to protect their sources of information.

A document entitled "Deliveries of Cruise Missiles to RAF Greenham Common - Parliamentary and Public Statements" was prepared in the Ministry of Defence on or about October 20, 1983. It was classified "Secret".

Only seven copies left the ministry. The primary addressee was the Prime Minister.

The next day a photocopy of one of the copies arrived at the news desk of *The Guardian*. No one on the staff knew whence it came or who delivered it. The editor, after inquiries, decided that it was authentic. He also concluded that the national interest would not be damaged by its publication. On October 31 he published it.

On November 11, the Treasury Solicitor wrote to the editor asking him to deliver up the document. On November 17, *The Guardian's* solicitors replied saying that certain markings on the document might disclose or assist in the identification of the source of the information to *The Guardian*, although the editor did not know the source and that in accordance with the well established convention of journalism which is statutory force by section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 he was not prepared to take any step which might lead to the disclosure.

The reply stated that the editor was only concerned to protect his source and was prepared to hand over the document with the markings excised. That was unacceptable and proceedings were begun on November 22.

The principal establishment officer of the Ministry of Defence had sworn that the fact that a document marked "secret" addressed to the Secretary of State for Defence to the Prime Minister had found its way into the possession of a national newspaper was of the gravest importance to the continued maintenance of national security.

It represented a threat to the United Kingdom's relations with her allies who could not be expected to continue to trust her Majesty's Government with secret information which might be liable to unauthorized disclosure and the identity of the person or persons who disclosed the information for the protection of national security.

The editor of *The Guardian* in an affidavit in reply spoke of the thought given as to whether it was proper to publish the document and said that *The Guardian* would never publish anything which in the editor's opinion would damage national security.

Whether or not the editor acted in the public interest in publishing the document was the issue. The secretary of state's complaint was quite different. It was that a servant of the Crown who handled classified documents had decided for himself whether classified information should be disseminated to the public. If he could do it on one occasion he might do it on others where the safety of the state would be imperilled.

The Crown's case before the judge was very simple. The original document was Crown property and Crown copyright. Any copy of that document was an infringing copy and by the combined effect of sections 2, 4, 18 and 39 of the Copyright Act 1956, the Crown had the same rights in respect of the copy in *The Guardian's* possession as it would have had in respect of an order requiring *The Guardian* who relied on section 10 of the

document to deliver up the copy.

His Lordship said that the parties were legally aided, where the impact of the Law Society change affected the court's appreciation of the court as to what was to be done and what was practical.

Costs must be estimated

Atkinson v Atkinson

Solicitors in matrimonial proceedings involving property adjustment or lump sum award claims were under a duty when appearing before the court to have made as informed as possible an estimate of the outstanding and foreseeable costs of the proceedings, Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce (sitting with Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson) said in the Court of Appeal on December 14.

His Lordship said that was particularly the case where the parties were legally aided, where the impact of the Law Society change affected the court's appreciation of the court as to what was to be done and what was practical.

Contempt of Court Act 1981, to deliver up the copy.

The judge held that section 10 of the 1981 Act was not intended to interfere with proprietary rights. He went on to say that if it had been necessary for the Crown to rely upon the exceptions to section 10 it would have refused to make an order at the present stage leaving it to the Crown to establish by evidence called at the trial the identity of the untrustworthy person and remove him from a position in which he had access to classified material.

Both parties appealed. *The Guardian* now challenged the Crown's right of property and the judge's construction of the effect of section 10 of the 1981 Act afforded no defence to the newspaper.

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The real issue in the case was whether the section 10 exception of its common law equivalent was made out. His Lordship did not consider that there was a triable issue which could not or should not be decided in interlocutory proceedings.

The Crown's case was that it had in its employment a servant or servants who had access to classified information and who were prepared, for reasons which seemed good to them to betray the trust which was reposed in them.

His Lordship had some doubt whether section 10 had any relevance at all to the present facts; it was at least arguable that Parliament did not intend thereby to interfere with the rights of owners to recover documents under the general law, even if delivery up of the property in question might incidentally disclose a source of published information.

A pointer in the opposite direction might be that delivery of a document having no intrinsic value other than as a means of identifying the source would at least seem to offend against the spirit of the section.

On the other hand there was force in Mr Brown's submission that the section was merely to place restrictions on an order for disclosure by oral evidence or affidavit, such as being done by the order sought in the *British Steel* case.

It was fully established that the exceptions to section 10 applied.

The Crown was entitled to discovery as an aid to pursuing its rights against its dishonest servant; see the *Norwich Pharmacal* case and *British Steel Corporation v Granada Television Ltd* ([1981] 1 AC 1096).

Refusal to order delivery up would wholly frustrate those rights and would be contrary to the interests of justice. Furthermore the Crown was threatened with further action which could consist of serious breaches of the Official Secrets Acts. The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE GRIFFITHS, the editor had said: "The *Guardian* does not know who or whom of finding out who the source is." There was no certainty that the effect of the order sought by the Crown would in fact involve disclosure of *The Guardian's* source of information, since that depended entirely on whether the partially blacked out markings would lead to that source.

It was at least arguable that a publisher praying section 10 in aid might satisfy the court by affirmative evidence that the effect of the order would not merely might reveal the source.

His Lordship in any event was satisfied that delivery of the document necessary to the interests of national security, in so far as they believed that many of their sources would dry up and that that would seriously interfere with their effectiveness.

Parliament by enacting section 10 had clearly recognized the importance that attached to the ability of the press to protect their sources. No harm could be seen in giving a wide discretion to the opening words of the Ministry of Defence, which might gravely prejudice national security if the fact that a copy got into unauthorized hands.

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document to deliver up the copy.

His Lordship granted the application judicial review by way of an order to quash two decisions of the First Justice to refuse him legal aid in respect of a charge of indecent exposure.

Solicitors: Lovell, White & King, Treasury Solicitor.

Granting of legal aid

Regina v Corfield (Richard Ian Michael)

The fact that a defendant charged with indecent exposure was a serving soldier ought without more to have led to his being granted legal aid, subject to means as a conviction for such an offence would be highly likely to result in his discharge from the Army, thereby threatening his livelihood, Mr Justice Mann said in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, sitting with Lord Justice Watkins, on December 14.

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MEMORIAL SERVICES

COOPER, DAME GLADYS

In London 100 December. See obituary.

THE TIMES

200 days in London

or elsewhere

or abroad

or elsewhere

or elsewhere</

